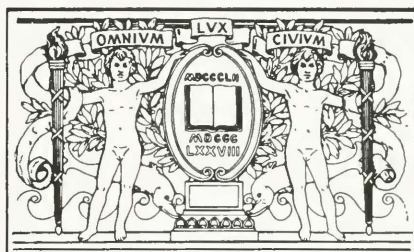


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# BENKO GAMBIT ACCEPTED BIT





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# Benko Gambit Accepted

EDUARD GUFELD

COLLIER BOOKS

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# Symbols

+	Check
±	Slight advantage
±	Clear advantage
±±	Winning advantage
=	Level position
∞	Unclear position
!	Good move
!!	Outstanding move
!?	Interesting move
?!	Dubious move
?	Weak move
??	Blunder
corres	Correspondence
Ol	Olympiad
IZ	Interzonal
L	League
Ch	Championship
½f	Semi-final

## **Part One**

# **Benko Gambit Declined**



# 1 4 ♘f3

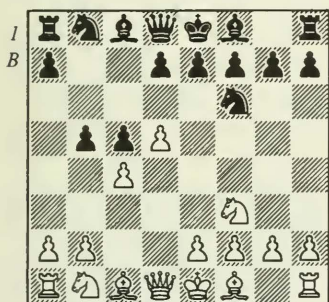
The Benko Gambit begins with the moves

- |   |    |     |
|---|----|-----|
| 1 | d4 | ♟f6 |
| 2 | c4 | c5  |
| 3 | d5 | b5  |

White's most popular and logical way of declining the gambit is

- 4 ♘f3 (1)

4 a4 is Chapter 2, 4 ♖c2 is covered in Chapter 3, 4 ♗g5 is the subject of Chapter 4, and 4 ♘d2 is dealt with in Chapter 5.



Black now has a choice between:

- A 4 ... g6
- B 4 ... ♗b7
- C 4 ... bc
- D 4 ... e6 (Blumenfeld Gambit)

A

- 4 ... g6

Here we shall consider the following alternatives:

A1 5 cb

A2 5 a4

A3 5 ♖c2

Other continuations are rarely encountered:

- a) 5 ♘bd2 ♖a5 (5 ... b4?!; 5 ... bc?! 6 e4 d6 7 ♗xc4 ♗g7 8 0-0-0 ♗b1 ♘bd7 10 ♗e1 ♘b6 11 b3 ♗b8 12 ♗b2 ± Keene-Pytel, Manchester 1981) 6 e4 ♗g7 7 e5 ♘g4 8 ♖e2 bc 9 h3 ♘h6 10 ♖e4 0-0 11 ♗xc4 d6 干 Groszpeter-Popov, Plovdiv 1982.
- b) 5 ♗f4 d6 6 cb a6 7 e3 ♗g7 8 ♘c3 0-0 9 a4 h6 10 e4 ♖a5 11 ♘fd2 ♖b4 12 ♗a3 ± Markov-Bukhman, Moscow 1983.
- c) 5 ♘fd2 ♗g7 6 e4 bc 7 ♘c3 0-0 8 ♘xc4 d6 9 ♗e2 ♘bd7 10 0-0 ♗a6 11 ♘e3 ♗xe2 12 ♖xe2 ♗ab8 13 ♗b1 ♗b4, Petursson-Geller, Reykjavik 1984.

A1

- 5 cb a6

12 4 ♖f3

A11 6 ♖c2

A12 6 ♖c3

A11

6 ♖c2

White combines threats against the pawn on c5 with support for the move e4.

6 ... ♕g7!?

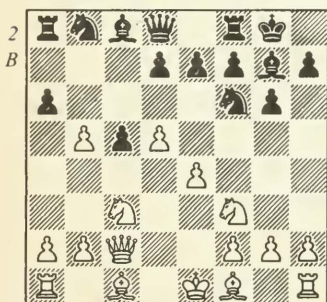
In the spirit of the variation that Black has chosen. Black seeks to outstrip White in development. 6 ... ab is weaker in view of 7 ♖xc5 d6 8 ♖xb5+ ♖bd7 9 ♖c3 ♕g7 10 g3 0-0 11 ♕g2 ♖c5 12 0-0 and Black did not have enough compensation for the two pawns in Tukmakov-Djukić, Bor 1983. Possible is 6 ... d6 7 e4 ♕g7 8 ♖c3 0-0 and so on as in the variation 7 e4.

7 e4

7 ♖xc5 0-0 8 ♖c3 d6 9 ♖b4 ab is dangerous for White. 10 e4 ♖a6 11 ♖b5 ♖c5 12 ♖e2 e6! and, according to Glek, Black has reasonable compensation.

7 ... 0-0

8 ♖c3 (2)



Black intends to realise his slight lead in development with the break ... e6 in the centre, for example 8 ... e6 9 ♕g5?! ♖a5 10 ♕d2 ♖c7 11 b6?! ♖xb6 12 ♕c4 ed 13 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 14 ♕xd5 ♕b7 with advantage to Black in Sahović-Lanka, Riga 1980. However, 9 d6! secures White's superiority.

With the aim of preparing 9 ... e6 Black plays:

A111 8 ... d6

A112 8 ... ♕b7

A111

8 ... d6

9 a4

The standard continuation, by which White strengthens b5 and plans the manoeuvre ♖a3.

Other continuations:

a) 9 h3?! e6! (illogical is 9 ... ab 10 ♕xb5 ♖a5 11 0-0 and the complications after 11 ... ♖xe4 12 ♖xe4 ♕xc3 13 bc ♖xb5 14 ♖xe7 favour White: 14 ... ♖d7 15 ♖f6 ♖d8 16 ♖f4 ± Horovets-Semina, Moscow 1983) 10 de ♕xe6 and with the threat of 11 ... d5 Black has excellent prospects.

b) 9 ♕e2 (Lepeshkin's recommendation). White has some advantage after 9 ... ab 10 ♖xb5 ♕a6 11 0-0 ♖bd7 12 ♕d2 ♖b6 13 a4. Better for Black is 10 ... ♖a6 11 0-0 e6!? opening White's weak centre (the point e4).

9 ... e6!?

To White's advantage is 9 ... ab  
 10 ♙xb5 ♘a6 (or 10 ... ♙a6 11 0-0  
 ♘bd7 12 h3 ♘e8 13 ♙d2 ♘c7 14  
 ♙xa6 ♚xa6 ± ½-½ Bagirov-  
 Grigorian, Erevan 1982) 11 h3  
 (11 0-0 ♘b4 12 ♚e2 ♙a6, Gurieli-  
 Gaprindashvili, match 1980, and  
 now 13 ♙d2 ±) 11 ... ♘e8 12 0-0  
 ♘ec7 13 ♙c4 ♘b4 14 ♚e2 ±  
 Schmidt-Bellon, Lucerne Ol 1982.

10 de ♙xe6

11 ♙e2

The game Vladimirov-Popov,  
 Moscow 1983, went 11 h3?! d5 12  
 ed ♘xd5 13 ♘xd5 ♙xd5 (13 ...  
 ♚xd5 is possible) 14 ♙e2 ab 15 0-0  
 ba 16 ♚xa4 ♚xa4 17 ♚xa4 ♘c6.

11 ... ab

12 ♙xb5 d5

If 12 ... ♘a6 13 0-0 ♘b4 14 ♚e2  
 ♚b6 15 h3 d5 16 ed ♘fxd5 17 ♙d2  
 White is better since it is hard  
 for Black to activate his pieces,  
 Bagirov-Popov, Moscow 1983.

13 ed ♘xd5

14 ♘xd5 ♚xd5!?

15 0-0 ♙f5

16 ♚e2 ♘c6 (3)

For the pawn Black's game is  
 sufficiently active, Gorelov-Kashev,  
 Moscow 1984.

## A112

8 ... ♙b7

9 a4

Unsuccessful was 9 ♙f4 d6 10  
 ♙c4 ab 11 ♘xb5?! (better was 11  
 ♙xb5) 11 ... ♘bd7 12 0-0 ♘b6 13  
 ♙e2? ♘xe4! 14 ♚xe4 ♚a4 with  
 advantage to Black in Psakhis-  
 Arbakov, Irkutsk 1983.

9 ... e6

9 ... d6 transposes to a variation  
 of A111 that is worse for Black.  
 Also possible is 10 ♙e2 ab 11  
 ♙xb5 ♙a6 12 ♚a3 with the better  
 game for White.

10 d6!

10 de?! fe and 11 ... d5 =.

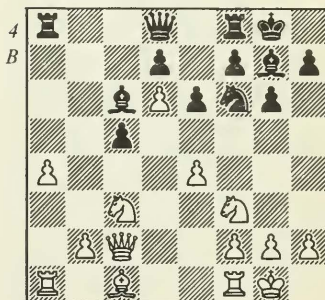
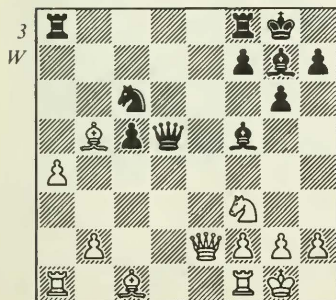
10 ... ab

Black strives to free his queen-  
 side. After 10 ... ♘e8 possible are  
 11 ♙e3 or 11 ♙g5.

11 ♙xb5 ♘c6

12 ♙xc6! ♙xc6

13 0-0 (4)





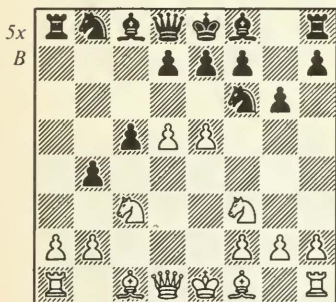
White has the better prospects: 13 ... ♖b8 14 ♙e3 ♖b4 15 ♘e5! ♙xe4 16 ♘xe4 ♘xe4, Bagirov-Glek, Tashkent 1984, and now 17 ♘c4! ♘f6 18 ♙d2 ♖b8 19 ♙c3 would have secured a clear advantage for White.

## A12

6 ♘c3 ab  
7 e4

Interesting is 7 d6!? and if 7 ... ed?! then 8 e4 b4 9 ♘b5 with a very good game for White: 9 ... ♙a6 10 ♙f4 ♖b6 11 a4 ♙xb5 12 ♙xb5 ♘h5 13 ♙e3 ♘c6 14 0-0 ♙e7 15 ♙h6 ± Razuvayev-Glek, Tashkent 1984. More in the spirit of the position was to play for rapid development with 7 ... ♙g7 8 ♘xb5 0-0 with a sharp game.

7 ... b4  
8 e5!? (5)



An original continuation. After 8 ♘b5 d6 a position in the Zaitsev Variation arises. Poor is 8 ... ♘xe4? in view of 9 ♖e2 f5 10 d6! ed 11

♘g5 and White has a strong initiative: 11 ... ♙b7?! 12 f3 h6 13 fe hg 14 ef+ ♘f7 15 fg+ ♘g7?! 16 b3 ± Van der Wiel-Hodgson, Brussels 1985, or 11 ... d5!? 12 f3 ♙e7 13 fe fe 14 ♖g4 ±.

8 ... bc  
9 ef ef!

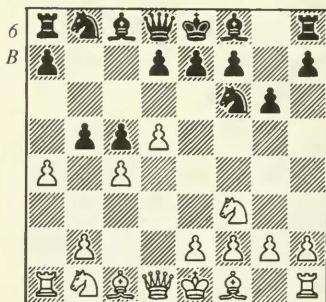
Tempting is 9 ... ♖a5 10 bc ♖xc3+ 11 ♙d2 ♖xf6 winning a pawn, but after 12 ♙c1! White firmly seizes the initiative: 12 ... ♙g7 13 ♙c4 (13 ♙c3? ♖xc3+! 14 ♙xc3 ♙xc3 干) 13 ... ♖b6 14 0-0 0-0 15 ♙e1 e6 16 ♘g5 h6 17 ♘e4 ♙a6 18 ♙e3 ± Christiansen-R.Andersson, New York 1985.

10 bc ♙g7

11 ♖e2+ ♖e7 12 d6!? ♖xe2+ 13 ♙xe2 ♙a6! with a sharp game.

## A2

5 a4 (6)



With this move White forces Black to determine the position of the queenside pawns. The question is: how useful will the move a4 be



later on?

5 ... bc

After 5 ... b4 White cannot develop his knight to c3, but in return his initiative in the centre now develops unhindered: 6 ♖bd2 ♗g7 7 g3 0-0 8 ♗g2 d6 9 0-0 ♖c7 10 e4 ♖bd7 11 ♖a2 ♖b8 12 b3 e6 13 de fe 14 e5! ♖xe5 15 ♖xe5 de 16 ♖e2 with advantage to White, Sergienko-Zhivodov, USSR 1984.

6 ♖c3 ♗g7

7 e4 d6

In view of the threat of e5 and d6 this seems indispensable. However, 7 ... 0-0 is possible, intending 8 e5 ♖g4 9 ♗f4 d6! opening the e-file at an unfavourable moment for White (10 ed ed 11 ♗xc4 ♖e8+), but after 8 ♗xc4 the threat of 9 e5 is unpleasant: 8 ... ♗a6 9 ♗xa6 ♖xa6 10 e5 ♖g4 11 ♖e2 ♖b4 12 0-0 d6 13 e6! f5 14 ♖g5 and White had the initiative in Romanishin-Deže, Novi Sad 1982.

8 ♗xc4 0-0

9 0-0 ♗a6

Black's strategy is to exchange the white-squared bishops in order to later exploit the light-square weaknesses in White's camp.

Other continuations:

a) 9 ... ♗g4 10 h3 ♗xf3 11 ♖xf3 ♖bd7 12 ♖e2! ♖e8 13 ♗d2 ♖c7 14 ♖b1 ♖b6 15 b4! with the initiative to White on the queenside.

b) 9 ... ♖bd7 10 a5 ♖g4 11 ♗e2 ♖b8 12 h3 ♖f6 (12 ... ♖ge5? 13

♖e1 ±) 13 ♖e1 ♖e8 14 ♖c2 ♖c7 15 ♖a3 with ♖c4 to follow, with a blockade of the queenside, Shingak-Valdmann, Zamardi 1980.

c) 9 ... ♖a6 10 ♖e2 ♖b4 11 h3 ♖d7 12 a5 f5 13 ef ♖xf5 14 g4 ♖xf3 15 ♖xf3 ♖e5 with a sharp game, Carvalho-Bellon, Malta Ol 1980.

10 ♗b5!?

The best move. After 10 ♖d2 ♖fd7 11 ♖e2 ♗xc4 12 ♖xc4 ♖b6 13 ♗g5 ♖xc4 14 ♖xc4 ♖d7 15 f4 ♖e8 16 a5 ♖b8 the initiative passed to Black in the game Peresipkin-Egin, Simferopol 1985.

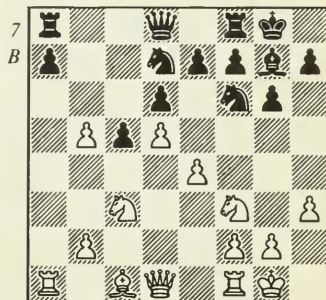
10 ... ♗xb5

11 ab ♖bd7

Doubtful is 11 ... a5 12 ♖e2 ♖bd7. White seizes the initiative by means of 13 ♖d1 ♖b8 14 h3 ♖b7 15 ♗f4 ♖b6 16 ♖a2 ♖fe8 17 ♖da1 ± Sosonko-Morrison, Thessaloniki Ol 1984.

12 h3 (7)

Directed against the manoeuvre ... ♖g4-e5.



The straightforward 12 ♖e2 ♘e8 13 ♙d1 ♘c7 14 ♙f4 ♖b8 15 e5 promises nothing – 15 ... de 16 ♘xe5 ♘xe5 17 ♙xe5 ♙xe5 18 ♖xe5 ♘xb5!, Lekhky-Lputian, USSR 1983.

After the text White has an extra pawn and a central advantage. But the b5 pawn is weak and the centre can be broken open by ... e6.

12 ... ♘e8

The most exact order of moves. Also possible is 12 ... ♖c8 13 ♖e2 ♖b7!? (weaker is 13 ... ♙e8? with the threat of 14 ... e6 because of 14 ♙f4! ♘b6 15 ♙fd1 ♖b7 16 ♙a6! with advantage to White in Cebalo-D.Gurevich, Eksjö 1982) 14 ♘d2 (14 ♙f4 cannot be played here because of 14 ... ♘e8 15 ♘d2 ♘c7 when 16 ♘c4 fails to 16 ... ♘xb5) 14 ... ♙fe8!? (threatening 15 ... e6) 15 ♘c4 a6 16 ♘a5 ♖c8 17 ♘c6 e6!? with a sharp game, Reshevsky-D.Gurevich, USA 1982.

13 ♖e2 ♘c7

14 ♙f4

Directed against Black's plan of 14 ... ♙e8 and 15 ... e6.

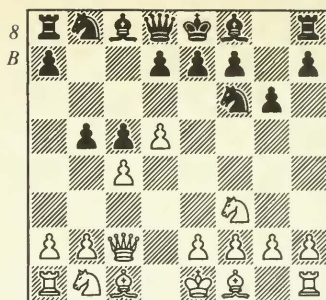
14 ... ♘b6!?

15 ♙fd1 ♘c8!?

Black's chances are better in view of his threats of 16 ... ♙b8 and 17 ... ♖d7, Groszpeter-Hebden, Plovdiv 1983.

A3

5 ♖c2 (8)



White plans e4.

5 ... d6

On 5 ... bc there is 6 e4 ♙g7 7 ♙xc4 0-0 (we have already looked at the position after 7 ... d6) 8 e5 ♘g4 9 ♖e4 d6 10 e6 f5 11 ♖d3 ♙a6 12 0-0 ♙xc4 13 ♖xc4 ♖b6 14 ♘c3 with a small advantage to White in Staniszewski-Sznepik, Polanica Zdroj 1984. Possible seems 5 ... ♙g7 and the variation after 6 e4 d6 will be considered later in the text. 6 cb?! a6 leads to positions from A1, but 6 ... ♘xd5!? follows a different path: 7 e4 (7 ♖xc5 ♙b7!? 8 e4 d6 9 ♖c2 ♘f6 10 ♘c3 0-0 11 ♙d3 a6 with compensation for the pawn – Matsukevich) 7 ... ♘c7 8 ♖xc5 a6! and White can no longer count on retaining the gambit pawn (9 ♘c3? ab 10 ♘xb5 ♘xb5 11 ♙xb5 ♘a6 and White has problems with his king). In Agdestein-Vaganian, Naestved 1985, Black achieved equality after 9 b6 ♘e6 10 ♖c2 0-0 11 ♙e3 ♙b7 12 ♙c4 d6 13 ♘c3 ♘c5 14 ♙xc5 dc.

6 e4 bc

After 6 ... ♗g7 7 cb (weaker is 7 ♘c3 b4! 8 ♘d1 0-0 9 ♗d3 e5! with a sound game for Black, Pachman-Pyanan, San Felli 1973) there arises a position from A11.

7 ♗xc4

The manoeuvre 7 ♘bd2 ♗g7 8 ♘xc4 0-0 weakens the centre. Counterattack in the centre gives Black good chances: 9 ♗e2 ♘bd7 10 ♗g5 h6 11 ♗d2 ♘b6 12 0-0 e6!? 13 de ♗xe6 14 ♘e3 d5!, Sveshnikov-Mikhalchishin, USSR Ch 1981.

7 ... ♗g7

8 0-0 0-0

9 h3

Preventing both 9 ... ♗g4 and the standard manoeuvre ... ♘g4-e5.

9 ... ♘bd7

Less good is 9 ... ♗a6 in view of 10 ♘a3!, when if, for example, 10 ... ♖c8 11 ♗f4 ♘bd7 12 ♖ab1 ♗xc4 13 ♘xc4 ♖a6 14 b3 White succeeds in strengthening the light squares and obtaining a spatial superiority, Qi-Leow, Thessaloniki Ol 1984.

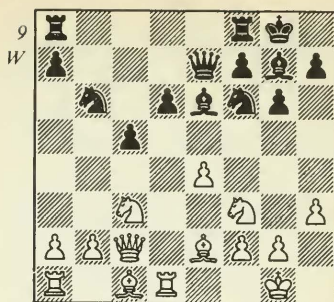
10 ♘c3 ♘b6

11 ♗e2 e6!?

12 de ♗xe6

13 ♖fd1 ♖e7 (9)

Attacking e4 with the possibility of active play in the centre, Black has sufficient chances, Anikayev-Gorelov, Volgodonsk (1st League) 1981.

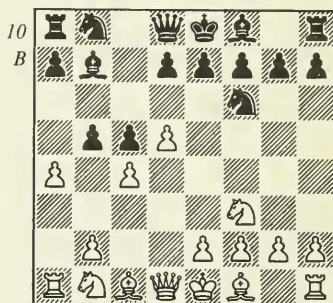


B

4 ... ♗b7

In this way Black manages to support the move 3 ... b5. However, White now has the opportunity to relieve the situation on the queenside.

5 a4 (10)



Black can tackle the problems that arise by means of:

B1 5 ... a6

B2 5 ... bc

B3 5 ... b4

B1

5 ... a6

## 6 ab!?

Consistently relieving the tension on the queenside, which allows White subsequently to take the initiative in the centre. Other possibilities are weaker:

a) 6 ♖fd2 bc 7 e4 e6 8 de de 9 ♖c3 ♖c6 10 f3?! ♖c7 11 ♖xc4 ♖ad8 12 ♖c2 ♖e7 13 ♖e3 0-0 ♢ Kavalek-Miles, Haifa Ol 1976.

b) 6 g3 g6 7 ♖g2 ♖g7 8 0-0 0-0 9 ♖fd2 b4 10 e4 e5 11 ♖b3 d6 12 ♖e3 ♖bd7, Haik-Biriescu, Bucharest 1979.

c) 6 e3 g6 7 ♖c3 b4 8 ♖e2 e6 9 ♖f4 ♖g7 10 g3 0-0 11 ♖g2 ♖e8, Ermenkov-Ochoa, Alicante 1978.

6	...	ab
7	♖xa8	♖xa8
8	♖c3	♖a5

Another possibility is 8 ... b4 9 ♖b5 ♖b6 threatening 10 ... ♖xd5. From here:

a) 10 e4!? d6 (10 ... ♖xe4 11 ♖d3) 11 ♖d3 ♖bd7 12 0-0 g6 13 ♖e2 ♖g4 14 ♖d2 ♖h6 15 f4 ± Averkin-Belusov, Moscow 1973.

b) 10 ♖f4 ♖a6 (10 ... ♖xd5 11 cd ♖xb5 12 e4 ♖b7 13 b3 e6 14 ♖c4 ±) 11 e4 ♖xe4 12 ♖d3 ♖f6 13 0-0 e6 14 de fe 15 ♖g5 ± Charushin-Palm, corres 1978, with the better prospects for White.

## 9 ♖f4!

A strong intervening move. At one time 9 ♖d2 used to be played, directed against 9 ... b4 10 ♖b3 ♖b6 11 ♖a4 ♖c7 12 f3 d6 13 e4 g6

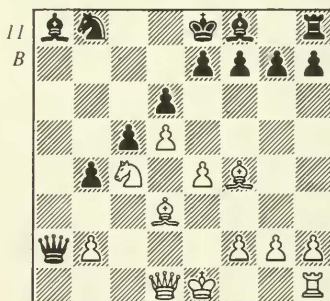
14 ♖d3 ♖g7 15 0-0 0-0 16 ♖g5 when, due to the preparation of the advance e5, White has the initiative, Kan-Keres, USSR Ch 1955. More exact, however, is 9 ... e6!? 10 e4 b4! and it turns out that after 11 ♖b3 the indefensibility of the e-pawn tells. There remains 11 ♖b5 d6 12 ♖d3 ♖bd7 13 0-0 ♖e7 14 f4 ♖b6 15 ♖e2 and despite White's freer game, Black has sufficient counterplay, Rodriguez-Bukal, Karlovac 1979.

9	...	d6
10	♖d2	b4
11	♖b5	♖xd5

On 11 ... g6 12 e4 ♖bd7 13 ♖b3 ♖b6 14 ♖a1 ♖b7 15 ♖a5 White has a clear advantage, Dorfman-Mochalov, USSR 1981.

The continuation in the text allows Black to win a pawn.

12	cd	♖xb5
13	e4	♖a5
14	♖c4	♖a2
15	♖d3 (11)	



But for the pawn White obtains



a significant superiority in the centre, Gorelov-Yanovsky, Moscow 1984.

B2

5 ... bc  
6 ♡c3 g6

Unsuccessful is 6 ... ♣a5 in view of 7 ♠d2, e.g. 7 ... ♡a6 8 e4 ♡b4 9 ♠xc4 ♠a6 10 b3! ♡d3 (10 ... ♠xc4 11 bc ♡d3? 12 ♣e2 ♡b2 13 ♡b5 ±) 11 ♣e2 ♡b2 12 ♡b5! ♣d8 13 ♣c2 ♡xc4 14 bc ± Sosonko-Knaak, Amsterdam 1974.

Interesting is 6 ... e6 7 e4 ed 8 ed d6 9 ♠xc4 ♠e7 10 0-0 0-0 11 ♠e1 ♠e8 (11 ... ♡bd7 12 a5 ♡g4 13 ♠f4 ± Semeniyuk-Filtser, corres 1976) 12 ♠f4 ♡bd7 13 a5 (preventing 13 ... ♡b6) 13 ... a6 14 h3 ♠f8 15 ♠xe8 ♡xe8 16 ♣d2 and White has the freer game and the better chances, Spraggett-Qi, Taxco IZ 1985.

7 e4 ♠g7  
8 ♠xc4

Unclear is 8 e5?! ♡g4 9 ♠f4 because of 9 ... d6! 10 ed 0-0!?

8 ... 0-0  
9 0-0 d6  
10 h3

A prophylactic move, directed against the possible manoeuvre ♡g4-e5. Premature would be 10 e5 de 11 ♡xe5 in view of 11 ... ♡e8 12 ♠e1 ♡d6 with a promising game for Black.

The game Wirthensohn-Holmov,

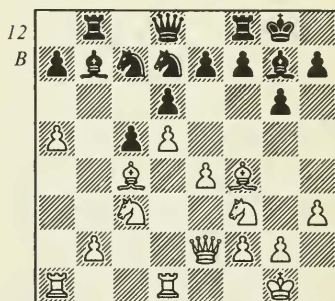
Timisoara 1977, went 10 ♠e1 ♡a6 11 a5?! ♡b4 12 ♠a3?! ♠b8 13 ♠g5 h6 14 ♠f4 g5 15 ♠c1 ♠c8 with counterplay for Black.

10 ... ♡bd7  
11 a5

On 11 ♣e2 possible is 11 ... ♡b6 12 ♠b5 a6 13 ♠d3 ♣c7 14 a5 ♡bd7 15 ♠c4 and White had the upper hand in Bukić-Martin, Olot 1973. Worthy of attention was 13 ... a5!?, when Black has reasonable chances in the struggle for the key point c4.

11 ... ♡e8  
12 ♣e2 ♡c7  
13 ♠f4 ♠b8  
14 ♠fd1 (12)

14 e5 would be untimely as after 14 ... de 15 ♡xe5 ♡xe5 16 ♠xe5 ♠xe5 17 ♣xe5 ♣d6 18 ♠fe1 ♠fe8 Black has managed to stabilise his position, Zilberstein-Grigorian, USSR 1972.



White's position has good prospects. It is difficult for Black to

generate activity: 14 ... ♔a8 15 ♖c2 ♖b4 16 b3.

B3

5 ... b4

As a result of this continuation the scene of action shifts to the centre.

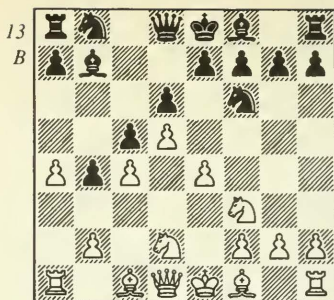
6 ♖bd2

White plans to play e4 and then fianchetto both bishops. Another idea is 6 ♖g5 d6 (weaker is 6 ... h6 7 ♖xf6 gf 8 e4 ♖g7 9 ♖d3 f5 10 e5 e6 11 0-0 a5 12 ♖bd2 ♖a6 13 ♖e1 with better chances for White in the centre) 7 ♖bd2 (on 7 ♖xf6 could come 7 ... ef 8 e4 g6 9 ♖d3 ♖g7 10 0-0 0-0 11 ♖bd2 ♖d7 – *sharper was 11 ... f5 12 ef ♖xb2 13 ♖b1 ♖g7* – 12 ♖c2 ♖e5 with a complicated game) 7 ... ♖bd7 8 e4 h6 9 ♖xf6 ♖xf6 10 g3 ♖c7 11 ♖h3?! ♖c8 12 ♖xc8 ♖xc8 13 0-0 g6 14 ♖e1 h5 with a difficult game for both sides in Psakhis-Bareyev, Kharkov 1985.

6 ... d6

7 e4 (13)

White can, for the time being refrain from this advance in favour of fianchettoing his bishops: 7 g3 g6 8 ♖g2 e5!? 9 de fe 10 0-0 ♖e7 11 b3 ♖g7 12 ♖b2 ♖c6 13 ♖c2 0-0 14 ♖ad1 ♖ac8 and Black has a promising game with sufficient counterchances on the queenside (against b3), Epishin-Barkovsky, Leningrad 1985.



7 ... e5

It is worth noting that recently a different system has been employed: 7 ... g6 8 b3 (otherwise it is difficult to develop the queen's bishop) 8 ... ♖g7 9 ♖b2 0-0 10 ♖c2 (10 ♖e2 e5 11 0-0 ♖h5 12 ♖e1 ♖f4 13 ♖d3 ♖xd3 14 ♖xd3 f5 15 f4 ± Sideif Zade-Odeyev, Volgograd 1985) 10 ... e6 (10 ... e5!?) 11 ♖d3 ♖bd7 12 0-0 e5 13 ♖e1 h5!? 14 g3 h4!? (otherwise White seizes the initiative after 15 f4) 15 ♖g2 hg 16 fg ♖h5 with sharp play, Basin-Tseshkovsky, Minsk 1985.

8 g3

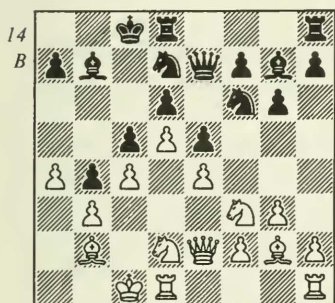
In the event of 8 de?! fe 9 ♖d3 (unsuccessful is 9 e5 de 10 ♖xe5 ♖bd7 ♢) Black stabilises the position in the centre with 9 ... e5! 10 ♖e2 ♖c6, for example 11 ♖f1 ♖d4 12 ♖xd4 ed 13 f4 ♖e7 14 ♖g3 0-0 15 0-0 ♖d7 with equality for Black in Balashov-Platonov, Leningrad 1971.

8 ... g6

9 ♙g2 ♙g7  
10 b3

Or 10 0-0 ♘bd7 11 ♘e1 (more active is 11 ♘h4!?) 11 ... 0-0?! 12 ♘d3 ♘h8 13 b3 ♙e7 14 ♙b2 ♙ae8 15 f4 and White had taken the initiative in Malich-Knaak, East Germany 1975. However, after 11 ... ♙e7!? and then 12 ... a5 and 13 ... 0-0-0 Black's position is safe enough.

10 ... ♘bd7  
11 ♙b2 ♙e7  
12 ♙e2 0-0-0  
13 0-0-0 (14)

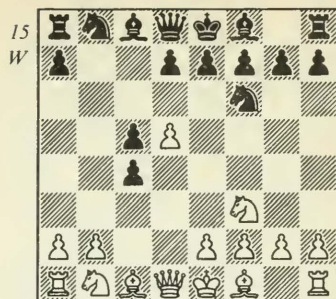


White's chances are slightly better. He has good long-term prospects of transferring the knight from f3 to d3 via e1 with f4 to follow, Polovodin-Barkovsky, Leningrad 1985.

C

4 ... bc (15)

Now White comfortably develops his pieces.



5 ♘c3 g6  
6 e4 d6  
7 ♙xc4

Spending time on the manoeuvre ♘d2xc4 is not justified: 7 ♘d2 ♙g7 8 ♙xc4 0-0 9 ♙e2 ♘bd7 10 ♙g5 h6 11 ♙d2 ♘b6 12 0-0 e6 13 de ♙xe6 14 ♘e3 d5! with equality for Black in the game Sveshnikov-Mikhailchishin, USSR Ch 1981.

7 ... ♙g7

Deserving attention is 7 ... ♘bd7 8 0-0 ♙g7 9 ♙e1 0-0 10 h3 (10 ♙g5 h6 11 ♙f4 g5? 12 ♙c1 ♘g4 13 ♙e2 ♘ge5 14 ♘d2 ♙c7 15 ♘f1 c4 16 ♘e3 ± Tal-Diaz, Biel 1Z 1976, although better was 11 ... ♘g4 and then ... ♘ge5) 10 ... ♘b6 11 ♙b3 ♘fd7 12 ♙f4 ♙c7 13 ♙d2 a5!? with complicated play, Popov-Zilberman, Moscow 1983.

8 e5!?

Quieter is 8 0-0, after which Black can prevent the advance e5 by either 8 ... ♘bd7 or 8 ... ♙g4. a) 8 ... ♘bd7 9 ♙b1 0-0 10 h3 ♘b6 11 ♙b5 e6 12 de fe 13 e5 ♘d5



14 ♖e4 ± Kivkal-Gutman, Riga 1978.

b) 8 ... ♙g4 9 h3 ♙xf3 10 ♖xf3 0-0 11 ♖e2 ♖bd7 12 ♙d2 ♖c7 13 ♖ac1 ♖b6 14 ♙a6! ♖fd7 15 b3 with advantage to White, Kogan-Gurevich, USA 1982.

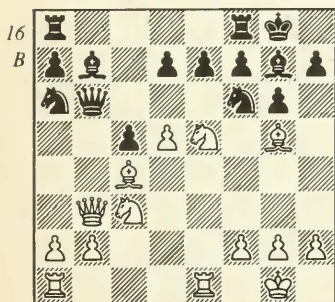
8 ... de  
9 ♖xe5 0-0

It would be a mistake to play 9 ... ♖fd7 because of 10 ♖xf7 ♖xf7 11 d6+ intending 12 ♖f3+, when Black loses material.

10 0-0 ♙b7

In the game Balashov-Stein, Moscow 1971, after 10 ... ♖fd7 11 ♖c6?! ♖xc6 12 dc ♖b6 13 ♙e2 ♖c7 14 ♙f3 ♙a6 15 ♖fe1 ♖ad8 Black obtained a comfortable game, but the complications after 11 ♖xf7 ♖xf7 12 d6 favour White: 12 ... ♖b6 13 ♙xf7+ ♖xf7 14 ♖f3+ ♙f6 (14 ... ♖g8? 15 ♙g5 ♖xd6 16 ♖ad1 ±) 15 de ♖xe7 16 ♙g5, when White has dangerous threats.

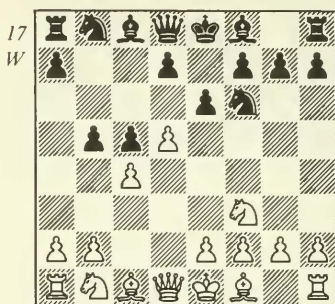
11 ♖b3 ♖b6!?  
12 ♖e1 ♖a6  
13 ♙g5 (16)



White stands more actively, Korchnoi-Sax, London 1980.

D

4 ... e6 (17)



The position that has arisen is well known in opening theory as the Blumenfeld Gambit. Ignoring the sacrificed pawn, Black counterattacks the White centre. The positional justification of such activity by Black at such an early stage of the game is that White has no opportunity to strengthen his centre, since 5 ♖c3 is met by 5 ... b4 and 5 e4 by 5 ... ♖xe4.

There are two basic possibilities:

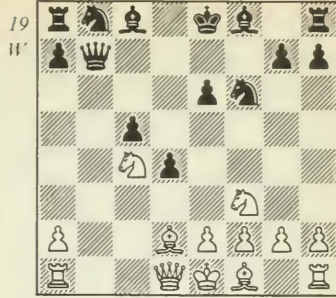
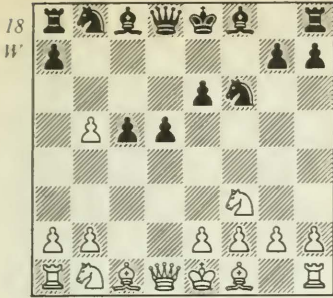
D1 5 de

D2 5 ♙g5

D1

5 de fe  
6 cb d5 (18)

For his sacrificed pawn Black has obtained a pawn centre which, after the completion of his development, is able to advance. Five continuations have been tested:



D11 7 ♖c3

D12 7 e3

D13 7 ♗g5

D14 7 ♗f4

D15 7 g3

D11

7 ♖c3 d4

This is forced. It is dangerous to allow 8 e4, e.g. 7 ... ♗b7 8 e4! de (or 8 ... d4 9 e5! dc 10 ♖xd8+ ♗xd8 11 ef with advantage to White) 9 ♖xd8+ ♗xd8 10 ♖e5!, when despite the material equality Black stands worse. For example, 10 ... ♗e8 11 ♗f4 ♗d6 12 ♖d1 ♗d5 13 ♖g6 hg 14 ♗xd6 ♖bd7 15 ♗e2 ± Ehlvest-Rogers, Tallinn 1985.

8 ♖b1 ♖a5+

9 ♗d2 ♖xb5

10 ♖a3?! ♖xb2

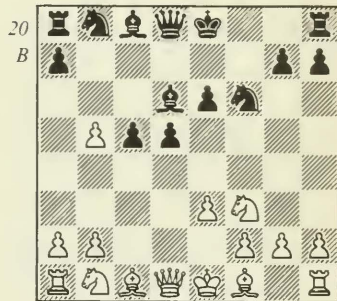
11 ♖c4 ♖b7 (19)

White seems to have excellent chances for his sacrificed pawn in view of the better development of his pieces, but Black maintains his

defensive position, for example 12 g3 ♖c6 13 ♗g2 ♖d5 14 0-0 ♗e7 and White doesn't have a decisive way of reinforcing his position.

D12

7 e3 ♗d6 (20)



The most common continuation. White can choose between several plans:

D121 8 ♖c3 preparing the advance e4

D122 8 ♗e2 intending kingside development

D123 8 b3 intending queenside development

## D121

8 ♘c3 ♘b7

Possible is 8 ... ♘bd7, intending to answer 9 e4 with 9 ... d4!, defending the square e5 in good time from the threat of 10 e5. For example: 9 ♘d3 ♘b7 10 e4 0-0 (sharper is 10 ... d4!?) 11 ♖e2 ♘e5 12 ♗xe5 ♘xe5 13 0-0 c4 14 ♘c2 with some advantage to White in Kivlan-Agafanov, Riga 1980. Worse is 8 ... 0-0 in view of 9 e4!.

9 e4 ♘bd7!?

Recommended by the Yugoslav ECO. On 9 ... d4 strong is 10 e5! ± as in Reti-Rellstab, Brno 1931: 10 ... ♘xf3 11 ♖xf3 ♘xe5 12 ♗e4! (not 12 ♖xa8 dc ♠♠) 12 ... ♘bd7 13 ♗g5 ±. But after 9 ... de 10 ♗g5! ♘d5 11 ♖c2 ♘bd7 12 ♗gxe4 ♗e5 13 ♗xd5 ed 14 ♗xf6+ ♖xf6 15 ♘e2 0-0 16 0-0 and White has the better chances, Browne-Quinteros, Buenos Aires 1980.

10 ed ed

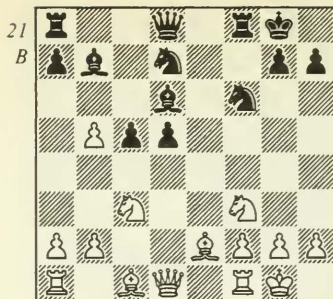
11 ♘e2

Dangerous is 11 ♖e2+ ♗f8 12 ♗g5 in view of 12 ... ♖b6! with the threat of ... ♖ae8.

11 ... 0-0

12 0-0 (21)

Black's position holds good long-term chances, despite his being a pawn down. He can play 12 ... d4 without fear of 13 ♘c4+ ♗h8 14 ♗g5 as then comes 14 ... ♗e5 ♠, or 12 ... ♖c7 and then 13 ... ♖ae8 with a growing initiative.



## D122

8 ♘e2

White plans to complete his kingside development.

8 ... ♘b7

9 0-0 0-0

10 ♘c3

On 10 a4 possible is 10 ... a5!? blocking White's queenside pawns. Sahović-Barlov, Vrnjacka Banja 1981, went 10 ♘bd2 ♘bd7 11 ♖c2 ♖e7 12 e4?! ♗xe4 13 ♗xe4 de 14 ♗g5 ♗f6 15 ♗h3 ♗d5 16 f3 e3 17 ♘c4 ♖ae8 and Black had secured an advantage.

10 ... ♘bd7

11 b3

11 e4 proved unsuccessful on account of 11 ... d4 and then 12 ♗a4 ♗xe4 13 b4 cb 14 ♖xd4 ♖e7 15 ♘e3 ♗df6 16 ♖ad1 ♘d5 with a complicated game in Renman-Prewoznik, Ostrava 1983.

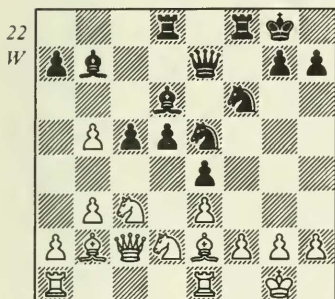
Minović-Grabe, 1974, went 11 a4 ♗h8 12 b4 cb 13 ♗a2 ♗e4 14 ♘b2 ♖e7 15 g3 ♖ac8 16 ♗d4 ♗e5

with a better game for Black.

11 ... ♖e7  
12 ♙b2 ♜ad8

Also possible is 12 ... e5 with the threat of 13 ... e4.

13 ♖c2 e5  
14 ♜fe1 e4  
15 ♞d2 ♞e5 (22)

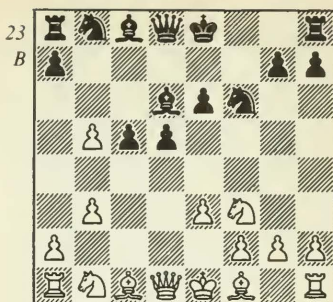


Black has secured a very promising position in the centre and on the kingside. This position was first encountered in the game Tarrasch-Alekhine, Pistyan 1922, when after 16 ♞d1 ♞fg4 17 ♙xg4 ♞xg4 18 ♞f1 ♖g5! Black had a dangerous attack against the white king.

In another example, 16 f4 ef 17 ♞xf3 ♞fg4 18 ♙d3 ♞xf3+ 19 gf ♞xe3 20 ♙xh7+ ♜h8 also turned out to be unsatisfactory for the first player, Sinadinović-Sahović, Niš 1981.

## D123

8 b3 (23)



8 ... 0-0  
9 ♙b2 ♞bd7  
10 ♞bd2 ♖e7  
11 ♙d3

White has completed the deployment of his pieces, with the aim of preventing the advance ... e5-e4.

11 ... e5!?

Black has to play this move.

11 ... ♙b7 12 ♖e2 ♜ac8 13 0-0 ♞b6?! (better was 13 ... e5 14 e4 c4!? with a sharp game) 14 e4 c4 15 bc ♞xe4 16 ♙xe4 de 17 ♞e5 ♖g5 18 ♞xe4 ♖f5 19 ♞c6 ± and White has the upper hand, Keller-Epstein, Vladimir 1979.

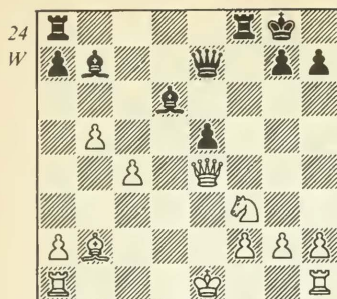
12 e4 c4!

Black sacrifices a pawn to free the c5 square for his knight.

13 bc ♞c5  
14 ♖e2 de  
15 ♞xe4 ♞fxe4  
16 ♙xe4 ♞xe4  
17 ♖xe4 ♙b7 (24)

Despite his two extra pawns White faces a difficult defence since on the retreat of the queen

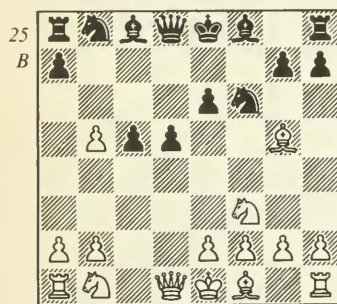




(18 ♖e2) 18 ... e4 is unpleasant, with an attack for Black, Larsen-Smagar, corres 1980-83.

## D13

7 ♗g5 (25)



The idea behind this move is clear: to develop the queen's bishop before playing 8 e3.

7 ... ♗e7

It would be a mistake to play 7 ... ♖a5+ 8 ♖d2 ♖xb5 in view of 9 e4! ♖b7 10 ♗xf6 gf 11 ed ♖xd5 12 ♖e3 when White has the advantage. The same goes for 7 ... ♗d6 because of 8 e4! intending 8 ... de 9 ♘fd2 ♗e5 10 ♘c3 ♗b7 11 ♗c4 and 12 ♖e2 ±.

But possible is 7 ... ♗b7, since after 8 e3 ♗d6!? 9 ♘c3 0-0 10 ♗e2 ♘bd7 11 0-0 ♘h8 12 ♗h4 ♖e7 13 ♗d3 e5 Black took the initiative in Ivanov-Mnatsakanian, Erevan 1977. Sharper here was 8 e4!? de 9 ♖xd8+ ♘xd8 10 ♘e5 ♘e8 11 ♘d2!? (11 ♘c3 ♗d6) and 12 ♘dc4 with an unclear game.

8 e3 0-0

9 ♗e2 ♗b7

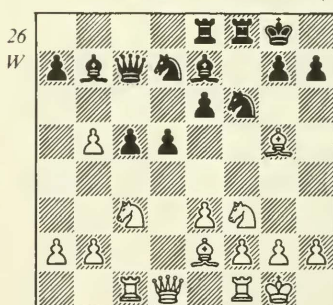
Interesting is 9 ... a6!? 10 ba ♗xa6 opening the queenside, for example 11 0-0 ♘c6 12 ♘c3 ♖b6 13 ♗xa6 ♖xa6 14 h4, Tavadian-Arkhipini, Erevan 1981. After 14 ... ♖ab8 Black has a sufficiently active game for the pawn.

10 ♘c3 ♘bd7

11 0-0 ♖c7

Insufficiently active is 11 ... ♖e8 12 ♖c2 ♗d6 (not 11 ... e5? because of 12 ♗xf6) 13 ♖fe1 ♗d8 14 ♗ad1 and White has the better chances in view of the threat of 15 e4, Kholmov-Portisch, Hungary 1959.

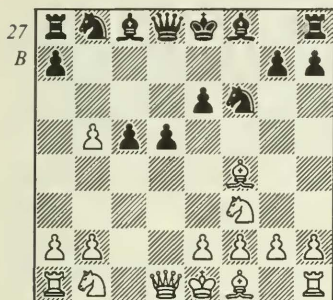
12 ♖c1 ♗ae8 (26)



After 13 ♙h4 ♙d6 14 ♙g3 e5 15 b4 c4 the game is unclear, Kan-Goldenov, Moscow 1946.

## D14

7 ♙f4 (27)



An idea analogous to 7 ♙g5.

7 ... ♙d6  
8 ♙xd6 ♖xd6  
9 ♜bd2

White's plan consists of preparing the counter-punch e4 in the centre.

9 ... 0-0!?

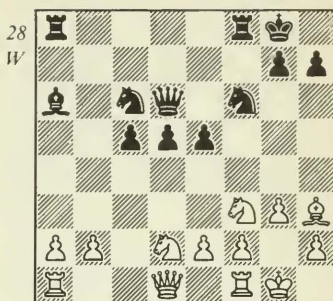
More exact than 9 ... ♜bd7 in view of 10 e3!? 0-0 11 ♙e2 a6 12 ba ♙xa6 13 0-0 ♖b6 14 b3, and White can put his trust in his extra pawn, Rossetto-Szabo, Buenos Aires 1955.

10 g3

On 10 e3 there could follow 10 ... a6 11 ba ♙xa6 12 ♙e2 ♜c6!? 13 0-0 ♖fb8 14 b3 e5 and if 15 e4 de 16 ♜g5 then 16 ... ♙xe2 17 ♖xe2 ♖d7! with a good game for Black (Vorotnikov).

10 ... a6

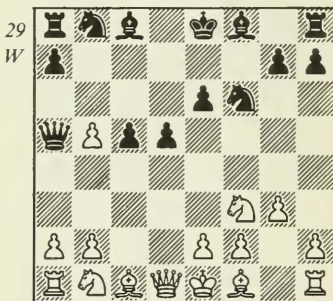
11 ba ♙xa6  
12 ♙h3 ♜c6  
13 0-0 e5 (28)



Black has enough initiative for the pawn, Nikolić-Barlov, Vrbas 1982.

## D15

7 g3 ♖a5+!? (29)



The most straightforward reply. Black simply wins back the pawn, since 8 ♜c3 hands the advantage to Black after 8 ... d4 9 ♖a4 ♖b6.

8 ♜bd2 ♖xb5  
9 ♙g2 ♙e7

In Osnos-Kozlov, Chelyabinsk

1975, Black tried 9 ... ♕b7?!, but after 10 0-0 ♘c6 11 e4! White had the advantage, for example 11 ... de 12 ♘g5 ♘d4 13 ♘dxe4 0-0-0 14 ♘c3 ♗a6 15 ♖e1.

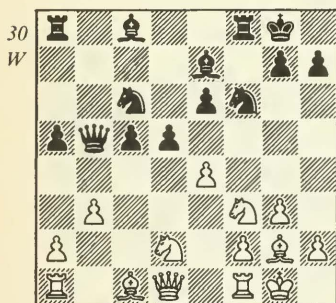
10 0-0 ♘c6  
11 e4 0-0!?

Both 11 ... de and 11 ... d4 create weaknesses in the Black position and are rarely seen.

12 b3

It is clear that 12 ♖e1 is refuted by 12 ... c4!. Zilberman-Kapengut, USSR 1975, continued 13 ed ed 14 ♘e5 ♘xe5 15 ♖xe5 ♕c5 and Black used the weakness of f2 to seize the initiative.

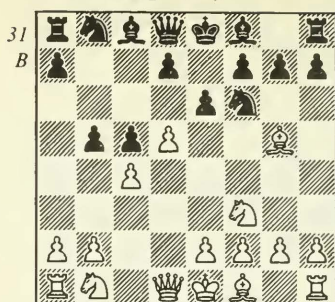
12 ... a5!? (30)



The plan of attacking on the queenside promises Black sufficient counterplay, e.g. 13 ♖e1 a4 14 ed ed 15 ♕b2 a3 16 ♕c1 ♕f5 17 ♘f1 ♖a7 18 ♘e3, Gulko-Grigorian, USSR Ch 1974, and now with 18 ... ♕e4!? 19 ♘g5 ♕xg2 20 ♘xg2 ♘b4! Black would have obtained the better game.

D2

5 ♕g5 (31)



This continuation has the best reputation against the Blumenfeld Gambit.

Black has three possibilities at his disposal using the early development of the bishop:

D21 5 ... h6

D22 5 ... ♗a5+

D23 5 ... ed

The continuations 5 ... ♕b7 and 5 ... bc are considered unfavourable for Black:

a) 5 ... ♕b7 6 e4 ♗a5+ 7 ♗d2 ♗xd2+ 8 ♘fxd2 b4 9 ♕d3 d6 10 0-0 ♘d7 11 f4 ± Grünfeld-Michell, Margate 1923.

b) 5 ... bc 6 e4 ♗a5+ 7 ♕d2! ♗b6 8 ♘c3 ±.

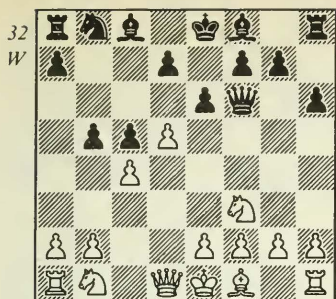
D21

5 ... h6

6 ♕xf6 ♗xf6 (32)

The starting position of this variation. The vulnerability of b2 prevents White from quickly playing 7 e4? because of 7 ... ♗xb2.





7 ♘c3

7 ♘c2 is considered inadequate in view of 7 ... b4!? followed by 8 ♘bd2 g5 9 e4 g4 10 ♘g1. It is interesting that the position after 10 ... ♙g7 11 ♙b1 h5 12 ♙d3 d6 13 ♘e2 ♘d7 14 f4! gf 15 ♘xf3 ♘e5 16 0-0 ♘h6 17 ♘e5 ♙xe5 18 ♘h1 occurred in both Nikolić-Miles, Tunis IZ 1985, and Rodriguez-Martin, Biel 1985. The first game went 18 ... h4 19 ♘g1 ♘g7 20 ♘f3 ♙g3 21 e5!? and the second 18 ... h4 19 ♘g1 ♘g7 20 ♘f3 ♙f4 21 a3 with in both cases a sharp position and the better chances for White.

After 7 ♘c2 b4!? Tarjan-Dieks, Wijk aan Zee II 1974, went 8 e4 g5 9 h3?! (better was 9 ♘bd2) 9 ... h5! 10 e5 ♘g7 11 ♘bd2 g4 12 hg hg 13 ♙xh8 ♘xh8 with a fine game for Black.

7 ... b4

8 ♘b5!?

On 8 ♘e4?! possible is 8 ... ♘xb2 9 ♙b1 ♘a3 10 e3 f5!. The complications after 11 ♘e5?! fe 12

♘h5+ ♘d8 13 ♘f7+ ♘c7 14 ♘xh8 g5 are in Black's favour, Garcia-Knaak, Tunis 1984.

8 ... ♘d8!?

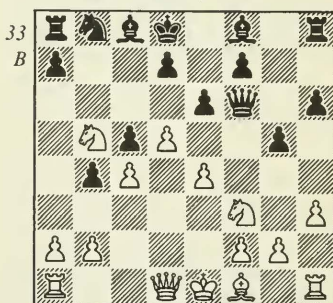
A carefully tested line is 8 ... ♘a6 9 e4 (9 ♘c2 g5! 10 de fe 11 ♙d1 ♙g7 was to Black's advantage in Popov-Dieks, Wijk aan Zee 1974) 9 ... g5 (dangerous is 9 ... ♘xb2 10 ♙d3 d6 11 0-0 ♙d7 12 ♘a4! ±) 10 e5 ♘f4 11 ♙d3! (nothing is promised from 11 ♘d2 ♘xd2+ 12 ♘xd2 ♙b7 13 a3 ♘d8 14 d6 ♙g7 with difficulties for both sides in Vukić-Ljubojević, Yugoslav Ch 1972) 11 ... g4 12 ♘d2 ♘xd2+ 13 ♘xd2 ♘d8 14 de fe 15 ♙e4 ± Polugayevsky-Ljubojević, Manila 1975.

9 e4 g5

This move is directed against 10 e5 in view of 10 ... ♘g7! and carries the threat of 11 ... g4 (11 h3 h5), when Black's chances are better.

Not dangerous for Black is 10 ♘a4 in view of 10 ... a5.

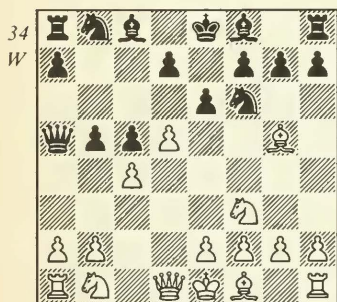
10 h3 (33)



The threat of 11 e5 is very dangerous for Black, for example 10 ... ♙b7?! 11 e5! ♖g7 12 ♖a5 a5 13 0-0-0! ± De Boer-Rogers, Wijk aan Zee 1985. No better is 10 ... h5 because of 11 h4! g4 12 ♗g5. Testing is still required on 10 ... ♖xb2 11 e5. After 11 ... a6 12 ♜b1 ♖xa2 13 ♜a1 ab (after 13 ... ♖b2 14 ♖a4 a5 15 ♙d3 Black has a difficult position) 14 ♜xa2 ♜xa2 15 ♙e2! ± Black has trouble activating his pieces.

## D22

5 ... ♖a5+ (34)



White has at his disposal four ways of getting out of check.

D221 6 ♙d2

D222 6 ♗bd2

D223 6 ♗c3

D224 6 ♖d2

## D221

6 ♙d2

This is the weakest continuation

since after 6 ... ♖b6 7 ♗c3 bc 8 e4 ♙a6 Black has a good position, for example 9 ♖c2 ed 10 e5 ♖e6 11 0-0-0 ♗e4 12 ♗xe4 de 13 ♖xe4 d5! with a complicated game in Plachetka-Prewoznik, Polanica Zdroj 1980.

## D222

6 ♗bd2

ECO now considers that the continuation 6 ... ♗e4 7 ♖c2?! ♗xg5 8 ♗xg5 ♙e7 9 ♗f3 d6 leads to equality. However, the variation 7 b4! ♖xb4 8 ♜b1 ♖c3 9 ♜b3 ♖a5 10 ♜xb5 ♖c3 11 ♜b3 ♖a5 12 ♖b1! ♗xd2 13 ♙xd2 ♖c7 14 e4 gives White the advantage.

More critical is 6 ... bc 7 ♙xf6 gf 8 e4 ♙a6!? (poor is 8 ... f5? 9 de fe 10 ef ♗d8 11 ♙xc4 ♙b7 12 ♗g5 ± Spassov-Manolov, Primorsko 1975) 9 ♖c2 c3 10 bc (10 ♙xa6? cd ♚) 10 ... ♙xf1 11 ♗xf1 ♙g7 12 g3 0-0 13 ♗g2 f5 with a sharp game.

## D223

6 ♗c3

6 ... ♗e4 7 ♙d2 ♗xd2 8 ♖xd2 b4 (8 ... bc?! 9 e4 d6 10 e5! de 11 ♙xc4 ♙a6 12 ♙xa6 ♖xa6 13 0-0-0 ± Akhmilovskaya-Pikheilich, Tbilisi 1982) 9 ♗d1 d6 (sharper was 9 ... g6 10 h4 h6 11 g3 ♙g7 12 ♙g2 ♙b7 13 e4 ♗a6 14 ♗e3 0-0-0!? 15 h5 ♗b8 with a complicated game in Lančević-Fernandez, Marbella 1982) 10 e4 e5 11 h4 ♗d7 12 ♙d3

♖f6 13 ♖e3 g6 14 a3 ♗h6 15 0-0  
 ♖b6 16 ab cb 17 c5 and White's  
 chances are preferable, Hartston-  
 Martin, England 1981.

## D224

- 6 ♖d2 ♖xd2+  
 7 ♖bxd2 bc  
 8 ♗xf6

Stressing Black's pawn weak-  
 nesses, which will be particularly  
 vulnerable in the ending. Less  
 exact is 8 e4 ♖a6 9 ♗xc4 ♖c7 10  
 d6 ♖a6 11 e5 ♖g4 12 h3 ♖xe5 13  
 ♖xe5 f6 14 ♗f4 fe 15 ♗xe5 ♖b4  
 16 0-0 ♗b7 with an unclear posi-  
 tion Chigureanu-Inkiev, Berlin  
 1984.

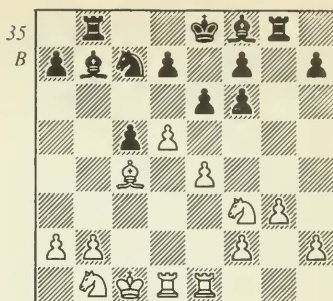
- 8 ... gf  
 9 e4 ♖a6

Planning to transfer the knight  
 to c7. Tempting is 9 ... ♗e7 10  
 ♗xc4 f5, but after 11 0-0-0! ♗a6  
 12 ♖b1 0-0 13 ♖he1 White's ad-  
 vantage is clear, Lukov-Semkov,  
 Bulgarian Ch 1977.

- 10 ♗xc4 ♖c7  
 11 0-0-0

Also possible is 11 ♖d1 ♗b7 12  
 0-0, for example 12 ... ♖d8 13 ♖b3  
 d6 14 ♖a5 ♗a6 15 ♗xa6 ♖xa6 16  
 ♖c4 ♖d7 17 ♖d2 ♖c7 with advan-  
 tage to White, Zivanović-Ristić,  
 Smederevska Palanka 1981.

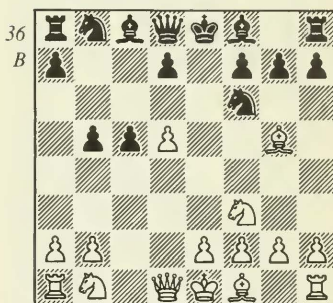
- 11 ... ♖b8  
 12 ♖he1 ♖g8  
 13 g3 ♗b7  
 14 ♖b1!? (35)



White is developing a strong  
 initiative in the centre and has  
 the better chances, Bukić-Inkiev,  
 Vrnjačka Banja 1983.

## D23

- 5 ... ed  
 6 cd (36)



D231 6 ... ♖a5+

D232 6 ... h6

## D231

- 6 ... ♖a5+

Black exchanges on d5 on move  
 5 especially to play this check, since  
 now White cannot play 7 ♖d2 as

it loses the pawn on d5.

7 ♖c3 ♖e4

Unsuccessful is 7 ... ♗e7 8 d6! ♗d8 9 a4 b4 10 ♖d5 ± Razuvayev-Kozlov, USSR 1975.

8 ♗d2!

Otherwise Black exchanges the bishop on g5 with advantage, for example 8 ♖d3 ♖xg5 9 ♖xg5 ♗e7 10 ♖e4 c4 11 ♖d4 0-0 12 d6 ♗d8 13 ♖d5 ♗a6! 14 g4 (14 ♖xa8 ♖c6 干) 14 ... ♖c6 15 ♗g2 b4 and Black's chances were preferable in Haik-Barlov, Vrnjačka Banja 1981.

8 ... ♖xd2

9 ♖xd2!?

Directed against the possibility of ... b4, which would allow the knight to occupy the c4 square. On 9 ♖xd2 there could follow 9 ... b4 10 ♖d1 c4! with an intensification of the struggle (11 ... c3 is threatened).

9 ... d6

Or 9 ... b4 10 ♖cb1 (10 ♖c4? ♖a6 干) 10 ... ♗a6 11 e4 g6 12 ♗xa6 ♖xa6 13 ♖c2 d6 14 ♖c4 ♗g7 15 ♖bd2 and White has taken firm control of the point c4, Petrosian-Sax, Nikšić 1983.

10 e4 a6

On 10 ... b4 already possible is 11 ♖c4!. After 11 ... ♖d8 12 ♖b1 ♗e7 13 ♗d3 0-0 14 0-0 ♗f6 15 ♖bd2 ♖bd7 16 ♖c2 (16 ♖xd6?! ♗xb2 - 16 ... ♖e5 17 ♖xc8 c4 ± - 17 ♖b1 ♗c3 18 ♖xc8 ♖xc8 19 ♖c4 ♖e5 with equality, Browne-

Matulović, Buenos Aires 1979) 16 ... ♖e5 17 f4!? White has the more active game.

11 a4!?

Striving to weaken the c4 square.

11 ... b4

12 ♖cb1 ♗e7

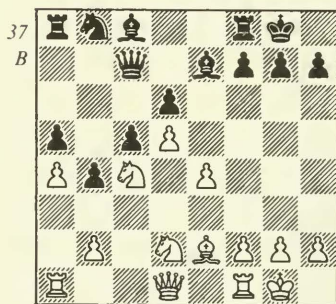
13 ♗e2 0-0

Alternatively 13 ... ♖d7 14 0-0 ♗f6 15 ♖c4 ♖c7 with initiative to White, Kuligowski-Ermenkov, Niš 1979.

14 0-0 ♖c7

15 ♖c4 a5

16 ♖bd2 (37)



White has firmly seized the initiative - Spassov-Martinović, Vrnjačka Banja 1984.

## D232

6 ... h6

6 ... d6 is too passive: 7 e4! a6 8 a4! ♗e7 9 ♗xf6 ♗xf6 10 ab ♗xb2 11 ♖a2 ♗f6 12 ♖bd2 0-0 13 ♗d3 with a significant edge to White.

7 ♗xf6 ♖xf6



## 8 ♖c2

The most common continuation, defending the pawn on b2 and supporting the move e4. Unclear are:

a) 8 e4 ♖xb2 9 ♜bd2 c4! 10 ♜b1 ♖a3 11 ♜xb5 ♙b4 12 ♖b1 a5 13 ♙xc4 ♙a6 with a sharp game, Grigorian-Arbakov, Moscow 1981.  
b) 8 ♖c1 d6 (risky is 8 ... c4 9 ♜c3 ♙b4 because of 10 ♖e3+! ♖e7 11 ♖xe7+ ♜xe7 12 ♜d4 and White seizes the initiative – Browne-Timman, Lone Pine 1977) 9 e4 a6 10 ♜c3 ♜d7 with a fairly equal game.

8 ... d6

The centre must be blocked: 8 ... ♙a6?! 9 e4! ♜b8 10 ♜c3 c4 11 e5! ± – Sher.

9 e4 a6

10 a4 b4

Not 10 ... ba in view of 11 ♜c3 ♙e7 12 ♜d2 0-0 13 ♜xa4 ♜d7 14 ♙e2 ♜b8 15 0-0 ± Sher-Kozlov, Odessa 1980.

11 ♜bd2 ♜d7

On 11 ... ♙g4? strong is 12 e5! de 13 ♜e4. After 13 ... ♖f4 14 ♜fd2 ♙f5 15 ♙d3 the poor position of the black queen gave White the advantage in Chernin-Miles, Tunis IZ 1985.

An analogous operation follows 11 ... g5?!: 12 e5! de 13 ♜c4 and

Black's position collapses after 12 a5.

Possible is 11 ... a5!?, intending 12 ... ♙a6 or 12 ... g6.

12 a5

On 12 ♙d3 there could follow 12 ... g5, for example 13 ♜c4 ♙g7 (13 ... g4?! 14 e5! with complications advantageous to White) 14 0-0 0-0 15 ♜a1 ♖e7 with a complicated game, Tatai-Rodriguez, Skopje Ol 1972.

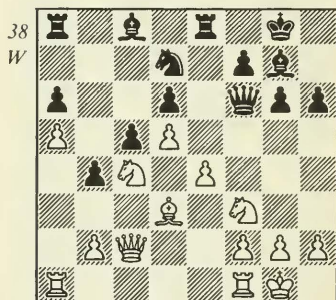
12 ... g6

Deserving attention is 12 ... g5.

13 ♜c4 ♙g7

14 ♙d3 0-0

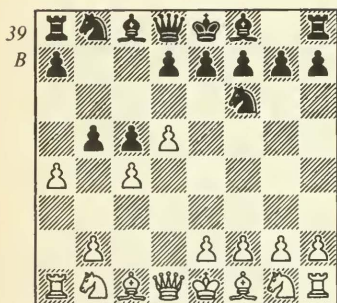
15 0-0 ♜e8 (38)



White's position is more active and his chances are better both on the queenside and in the centre. He can even consider the plan ♜fd2 followed by f4, as in the game MacCambridge-Shirazi, New York 1982.

## 2 4 a4

- |   |         |     |
|---|---------|-----|
| 1 | d4      | ♟f6 |
| 2 | c4      | c5  |
| 3 | d5      | b5  |
| 4 | a4 (39) |     |



Forcing a decision on the position of the queenside pawns by means of:

A 4 ... bc

B 4 ... b4

A

- |   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
| 4 | ... | bc |
| 5 | ♟c3 | d6 |

Other possibilities:

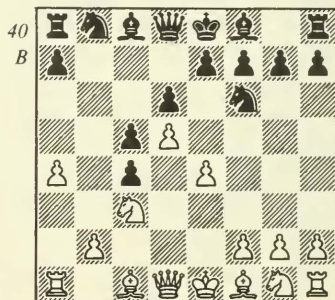
a) 5 ... e6 6 e4 de 7 e5!? d4!? 8 ef d5

(8 ... dc 9 ♙xc4 ±) 9 ♙xc4!? dc 10 ♟f3 dc 11 ♟xa8 ♙e6 12 ♟f3 ♟d7 with a sharp game, Keene-Borik, Berlin 1980.

b) 5 ... e5 6 e4 d6 7 ♙xc4 g6 8 ♟f3 ♙g7 9 0-0 0-0 10 h3 ♟a6 11 ♟e1 ♟b8 and White has the better prospects on the queenside, Sosonko-Spott, Amsterdam 1985.

c) 5 ... ♟a5 6 ♙d2 ♟a6 7 e4 d6 8 ♙xc4 ♟b4 9 ♟ge2 g6 10 ♙b5 ♙d7 11 0-0 ♙g7 and White held the initiative in the game Formanek-Bellon, Hastings 1985-6.

6 e4 (40)



Black has the choice between:

A1 6 ... g6

A2 6 ... ♖a6, defending c4

A1

6 ... g6

7 ♖xc4

Risky is 7 f4 ♖g7 8 ♖f3 0-0 9 ♖xc4 ♖a6 10 ♖d2 e6! 11 de fe 12 ♖xe6+ ♖h8 13 ♖c4 d5! and Black was dangerously active in Vaiser-Lputian, USSR 1983.

7 ... ♖g7

8 ♖f3

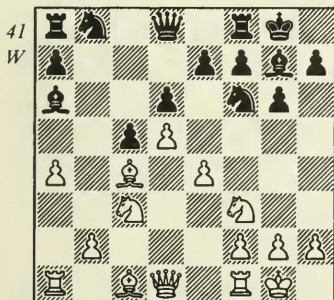
White plays to prepare the thrust e5.

Passive is 8 ♖ge2 because of 8 ... 0-0 9 0-0 ♖a6 10 ♖xa6 ♖xa6 11 ♖a3 ♖b4 12 h3 ♖b6 13 ♖e3 ♖a6! and Black had achieved an active game in Iyakyev-Mikhailchishin, Varna 1977.

8 ... 0-0

Filip-Lisa, USSR Ch 1973, went 8 ... ♖fd7?! 9 0-0 ♖a6 10 ♖f4 0-0 11 ♖d2 ♖e8 12 ♖fe1 ♖c7 13 e5 ±.

9 0-0 ♖a6 (41)



We have now transposed to variation A2 on page 14.

A2

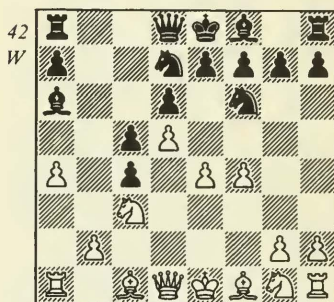
6 ... ♖a6

7 f4

Black's plan of holding on to the pawn involves a loss of time. In such circumstances White must strive for an active game in the centre.

Also possible is 7 ♖f3 g6 8 ♖d2 ♖g7 9 ♖xc4 0-0 10 ♖e2 ♖bd7 11 0-0 ♖b6 12 ♖a3 ♖e2 13 ♖xe2 ♖d7 with a complicated position, Tatayev-Gurevich, Moscow 1978.

7 ... ♖bd7 (42)



Another possibility to prevent the potential threat of e5 is 7 ... e6 8 ♖f3 ed (safer is 8 ... ♖e7 9 ♖e2 ed 10 ed – unclear is 10 e5 in view of 10 ... ed 11 fe ♖e4 12 ♖xd5 ♖xc3! – 10 ... ♖bd7 11 0-0 0-0 and in Tobosz-Knaak, East Germany v Poland 1978, White secured the initiative after 12 a5 ♖b8 13 ♖d2

♖b4 14 g4!) but White still has the unpleasant blow 9 e5!. This leads to his advantage after:

a) 9 ... de 10 fe ♘e4 11 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 12 ♘xd5 ±.

b) 9 ... d4 10 ef dc 11 ♖d5 ♖c7 12 ♙xc4 ♙xc4 13 ♖xa8 ± Vaisman-Knaak, Halle 1976.

8 ♘f3 g6

Poor is 8 ... ♖b8? 9 ♖e2! ♖b7 10 g3 e5 11 de fe 12 e5! ± Peyev-Pedersen, 1972.

9 ♙e2

Sharper was 9 e5 de 10 fe ♘g4 11 ♙f4 ♙g7 12 e6 ♘de5!? with a sharp and unclear position in Van den Broek-Goldenburg, Belgium 1975.

9 ... ♙g7  
10 0-0 0-0  
11 ♘d2 ♘e8  
12 ♘xc4

Weaker is 12 ♙xc4 ♙xc4 13 ♘xc4 in view of 13 ... f5!? with counterplay for Black, Yusupov-Chekhov, Vilnius 1978.

12 ... ♙b8

Black has a solid position with sufficient counterplay.

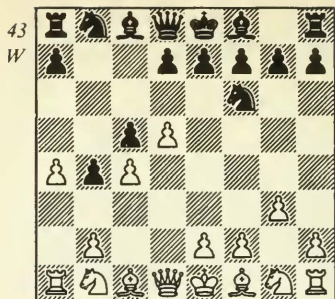
B

4 ... b4

Holding down the knight on b1, but freeing for White the field of operations in the centre.

5 g3! (43)

White's plan is to prevent the advance of the black e-pawn due



to the opening of the h1-a8 diagonal with the subsequent e4-e5 breakthrough in the centre.

5 ... e5!?

The most exact! After 5 ... d6 6 ♙g2 ♘bd7 7 e4 g6 8 f4 Black finds it difficult to hold back the threatened central breakthrough, for example 8 ... ♙b7 9 ♖e2 ♙h6 10 ♘d2 ♖c7 11 ♘gf3 0-0 12 e5! ± Lilienthal-Tatai, Zamardi 1980.

There is nothing in the continuation 5 ... ♙b7 with the aim of playing ... e5: 6 ♙g2 e5 7 e4 d6 8 f4! (weaker is 8 ♘e2 g6 9 0-0 ♘bd7 10 ♖d3 ♖c7 11 f4 ef 12 gf 0-0-0 with full equality for Black in the game Balcerowski-Georgadze, Decin 1975) 8 ... g6 9 fe de 10 ♘h3 ♖d6 11 ♘f2 ♙g7 12 ♙e3 0-0 13 ♘d2 with the better game for White in Peyev-Magulsky, Primorsko 1979.

6 e4

There is no danger in 6 de fe 7 ♙g2 d5 8 ♙g5 ♙e7.



6 ... d6

7 b3 g6

Passive is 7 ... ♖bd7 8 ♖bd2  
 ♙e7 9 ♙b2 ♖f8 10 h4 h5 11 ♙h3  
 ± Vaisman-Ghizdavu, Romania  
 1974.

8 ♙b2 ♙g7

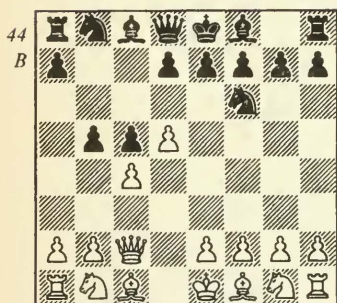
9 ♙g2 0-0

10 ♖bd2 a5

11 ♖ge2 ♙a7 12 0-0 ♖g4 13 h3  
 ♖h6 14 ♙c2 f5 with a complex  
 game, Witt-Ermenkov, Baden 1985.

# 3 4 ♔c2

- 1 d4 ♘f6
- 2 c4 c5
- 3 d5 b5
- 4 ♖c2 (44)



This move threatens e4.

- A 4 ... e6
- B 4 ... ♘a6
- C 4 ... bc

A

- 4 ... e6

Two moves have been tried here:

- A1 5 ♘g5
- A2 5 e4

A1

- 5 ♘g5 ♘e7

After 5 ... h6 6 ♘xf6 ♖xf6 7 ♘f3 a position from the Blumenfeld Gambit arises.

- 6 e4 0-0
- 7 f4?! ed
- 8 ♘xf6 ♘xf6

9 cd ♗e8 10 ♘bd2 ♖a5 11 ♘e2 d6 12 ♘c3 c4 with a sharp game, Wilder-Valvo, USA 1977.

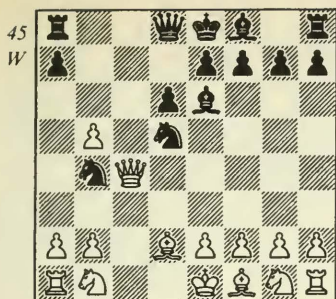
A2

- 5 e4 ed
- 6 cd ♖e7!?
- 7 ♘c3 b4

With a sharp and unclear position, Poletov-Shereshevsky, USSR 1975.

B

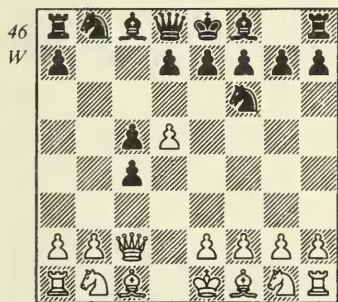
- 4 ... ♘a6
- 5 cb ♘b4
- 6 ♖xc5 ♘fxd5
- 7 ♘d2 d6
- 8 ♖c4 ♘e6 (45)



9 ♖a3 (9 ♖xb4? ♗c8 干) 9 ... ♗c8 10 ♖b3 and White has repelled Black's onslaught. The combination 10 ... ♖xa2 11 ♖xa2 ♖c3 12 ♖xe6 fe 13 ♖xc3 ♗xc3 14 bc ♖a5 15 ♖d2 does not give Black compensation for his material losses, Quinteros-Ermenkov, Baden 1985.

C

4 ... bc (46)



5 e4 d6

Weak is 5 ... ♖a6?! 6 ♖xc4 ♖b4 7 ♖e2 ♖a5 8 ♖c3 d6 9 ♖f3 g6 10

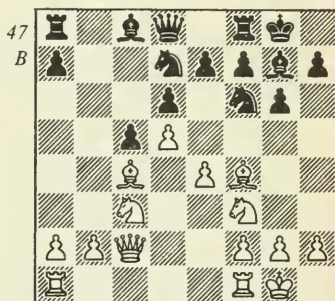
0-0 ♖g7 11 a3 ♖a6 12 e5 ± Enevoldsen-Beyen, Munich Ol 1958.

Also possible is 5 ... e6, and now:

a) 6 ♖c3 ed 7 e5 ♖b7!? 8 ♖g5 (8 ef ♖xf6) 8 ... ♖e7 9 0-0 ♖xe5 10 ♖f3 ♖e6 11 ♖xc4 dc 12 ♗he1 ♖e7 13 ♗xe6 fe with a sharp and unclear game, Bilunov-Arkhipov, Moscow 1978.

b) 6 ♖xc4 ed 7 ed d6 8 ♖c3 ♖e7 9 ♖ge2 0-0 10 0-0 ♖bd7 11 a3 ♖b6 12 ♖a2 ♗e8 with a good game for Black in Kolpakov-Mochalov, Riga 1975.

6	♖xc4	g6
7	♖f3	♖g7
8	0-0	0-0
9	♖c3	♖bd7
10	♖f4 (47)	



One of the standard positions of the Benko Gambit Declined. White has a secure centre, a comfortable development, and is working up a central initiative (e5). Black

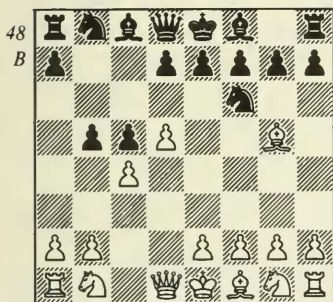
has a good solid position and the initiative on the queenside. Now:

a) 10 ... ♜b6 11 ♙e2 ♜b7 12 ♞ad1 ♞c8 13 ♞fe1 ♞g4 14 ♙c1 ♞fd8 15 h3 ♞c8 16 ♙g5 h6 17 ♙f4 with an initiative to White in Miles-Kharalambor, Geneva 1986.

b) 10 ... ♞b8!? 11 ♞fe1 ♜h5 12 ♙g5 ♞e8 13 h3 ♞a5 14 ♙d2 ♜e5 15 ♜xe5 ♙xe5 16 ♜e2 and after 17 ♙c3 and the exchange of dark-squared bishops White will have the better chances, Tomkov-Knaak, Cienfuegos 1984.

# 4 4 ♖g5

- 1 d4 ♘f6
- 2 c4 c5
- 3 d5 b5
- 4 ♙g5 (48)



White plans to carry out the advance e4 after exchanging on f6. Black has two main choices:

A 4 ... ♘e4

B 4 ... g6

Other continuations:

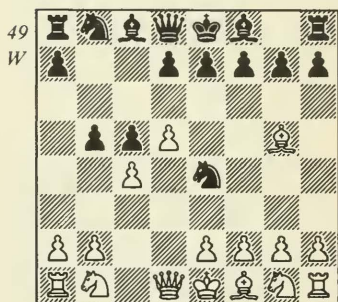
a) 4 ... ♗b6 5 ♘c3 (simpler was 5 ♘bd2) 5 ... b4 6 ♘b1 ♘e4?! (6 ... g6?! 7 g3!? ±) 7 ♙c1 (Tukmakov-Rajković, Hastings 1972-3) and now 7 ... g6 8 f3 ♘f6 9 e4 d6 10

♙d3 ♙g7 would have given Black an acceptable game.

b) 4 ... b4 5 ♘d2 d6 6 a3?! ba 7 ♗xa3 e5 8 de ♙xe6 9 ♘e4 ♙e7 10 ♙xf6 ♙xf6 11 ♗xd6 ♗xd6 12 ♘xd6 ♙e7 13 ♘e4 ♙xb2 14 ♗a2 f5!, Ubilava-Glek, Minsk 1983.

A

4 ... ♘e4 (49)



5 ♙f4 ♗a5+

Also possible is 5 ... e6 6 ♗c2 ♘d6 (6 ... ♘xf2? 7 ♙xf2 ♗f6 8 ♘h3 g5 9 ♗e4 ±) 7 ♘c3! (posing Black definite problems; bad would

be 7 ... bc 8 e4! ± or 7 ... b4 8 ♖e4  
 (±) 7 ... ♗a5 8 cb ♖xb5 9 ♙d2 ♖a6  
 10 ♖xb5 ♗xb5 11 e4 and White  
 stands better, Kaidanov-Arkhipov,  
 Moscow 1985.

6 ♖d2 bc

On 6 ... d6 strong is 7 b4! ♗xb4  
 8 ♖b1 ♗c3 9 ♖xb5 with advantage  
 to White, e.g. 9 ... ♖xd2 10 ♙xd2  
 ♗xc4 11 e3 when White has dan-  
 gerous threats, Shashin-Dommes,  
 Leningrad Ch 1971.

7 f3 ♖f6

8 e4 ♙a6

9 ♖e2

The standard knight journey to  
 c3, after which the threat of taking  
 on c4 secures White his initiative.

9 ... g6

It is dangerous for Black to try  
 to hang on to the pawn: 9 ... d6 10  
 ♖c3 ♗b4? 11 ♖b1 ♖h5 12 a3 ♗b7  
 13 ♙e3 g6 14 e5! de 15 ♖de4 ♖d7  
 16 ♗a4 ± Bellon-Martin, Beni-  
 dorm 1982.

10 ♖c3 ♙g7

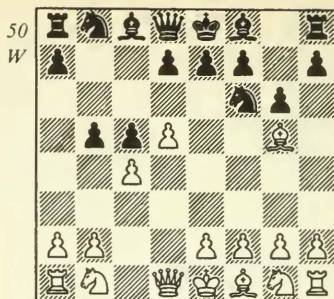
11 g4

Directed against the threat of  
 11 ... ♖h5. Now 11 ... d6 12 ♙xc4  
 ♖fd7 13 0-0 ♖e5 14 ♙xe5 ♙xe5  
 15 ♗e1 0-0 leads to a complicated  
 game, Plaskett-Hebden, Hastings  
 1982-3.

B

4 ... g6 (50)

The main continuation. In view  
 of the threat of 5 ... ♙g7 White



must force the play.

5 d6

In the event of 5 ♙xf6 ef 6 cb d6  
 7 ♖c3 ♙g7 8 ♖f3 0-0 9 e3 a6 10 a4  
 f5 White finds it difficult to  
 neutralise Black's dark-squared  
 bishop. Now 11 ♙e2 ab 12 ♙xb5  
 ♗a5 13 0-0 ♙xc3 14 bc ♗xc3 15  
 ♖d2 ♖a6 16 ♖c4 ♗f6 17 ♖a5  
 ♖c7! (weaker is 17 ... ♖b4 18 ♖c6  
 ♙b7 as after 19 ♖xb4 cb 20 ♖b1  
 ♗c3 21 ♗b3 White forces an  
 advantageous ending, Ubilava-  
 Gorelov, Telavi 1982) 18 ♖c6  
 ♖e8 19 ♖c1 f4 20 ♗f3 ♙f5 with an  
 excellent game for Black, Baturin-  
 Lputian, Alma-Ata 1983.

5 ... ed

On 5 ... ♙b7 good is 6 ♖c3!, e.g.  
 6 ... a6?! 7 ♙xf6 ef 8 ♗d2 ♖c6!?  
 (the best defence against the threat  
 of 9 ♗e3, after which there now  
 follows 9 ... ♖e5 10 f4 ♙h6 with a  
 sharp game) 9 cb! ♖d4 10 e3  
 ♖xb5 11 ♙xb5 ab 12 ♖xb5 ±  
 Miles-Bellon, Surakarta 1982.

6 ♖c3 ♙g7



7 ♜xb5 0-0

8 ♜f3

On 8 ♜xd6 unpleasant is 8 ... ♖b6.

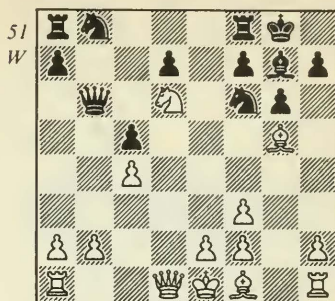
8 ... ♙b7

9 ♜xd6 ♙xf3

10 g4 ♖b6 (51)

11 ♖d2 ♜c6 12 ♙g2 ♜ab8 13 ♜b1 ♖a6 and for the pawn Black has a definite initiative. However, because of his control of the centre White has the better chances –

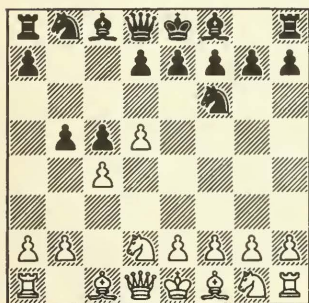
Grivas-Lputian, Athens 1983.



# 5 4 ♘d2

- 1 d4 ♘f6
- 2 c4 c5
- 3 d5 b5
- 4 ♘d2 (52)

52  
B



An insufficiently active continuation.

A 4 ... bc

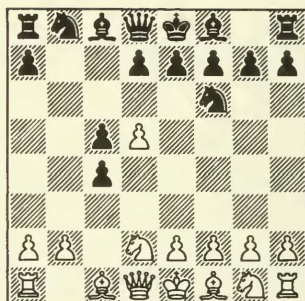
B 4 ... ♖a5

Deserving of attention is 4 ... g6 5 ♘gf3 ♘g7 6 e4 0-0!?, when after 7 ♘d3 bc 8 ♘xc4 ♘a6 9 ♖c2 e6!? Black takes the initiative. Better is 7 cb, transposing to a variation of the Benko Gambit Accepted.

A

4 ... bc (53)

53  
W



5 e4 d6

6 ♘xc4

In Nikolac-Georgadze, Lublin 1976, 6 ♘e2 g6 7 ♘c3 ♘g7 8 ♘xc4 0-0 9 ♘d3 ♘a6 10 0-0 ♘xc4 11 ♘xc4 ♘bd7 12 ♘d2 ♖ab8 13 b3 ♘e8 14 ♖b1 ♘c7 15 ♖e2 gave White the more comfortable game, but Black's counterplay is enough to give him equality.

6 ... g6

7 b3!?

Other possibilities:

a) 7 ♖e2 ♙g7 8 0-0 0-0 9 ♖c3 ♖bd7 10 ♖e2 ♖b6 11 ♙b5 ♖e8 12 a4 ♖c7 with queenside counterplay for Black, Khadzhipetrov-Peyev, Primorsko 1976.

b) 7 f4 ♙g7 8 ♖gf3 0-0 9 0-0 ♖bd7 10 ♖e2 ♖b6 11 ♙b5 ♙d7 12 ♙d3 ♖c7 13 ♖b1 c4! and Black had seized the initiative in Grigorian-Tseshkovsky, Moscow 1976.

7 ... ♙g7

8 ♙b2 0-0

9 ♖gf3 ♖bd7

White has comfortably developed his pieces and plans an active game in the centre by means of e5. No use is 9 ... e5 in view of 10 d6 f6 11 0-0!?. However, 11 e5?! is unsuccessful because of 11 ... ♖h5! 12 ♖c2 d5 13 ♙d3 ♖d7 14 g3 ♙b7 15 0-0 ♖c8 and Black had seized the initiative in Whitehead-Benjamin, USA 1983.

10 0-0 ♖b6

11 ♖c2

The straightforward 11 ♖e1 ♖b8 12 e5? fails to 12 ... ♖fxd5 13 ♙xd5 ♖xd5 14 ♖c4 ♙b7.

11 ... ♖b8

12 ♙c3!? e6!?

Weaker was 12 ... ♙g4 13 h3 ♙xf3 14 ♖xf3 ±. By opening the game Black tries to underline the poor position of the knight on d2.

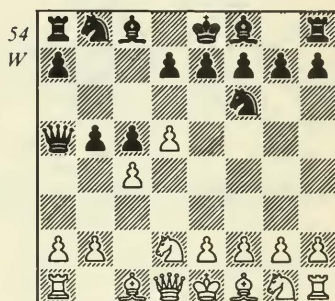
13 d6 f6

Black threatens 14 ... d5. On 14 e5 ♖fd5 15 ♙a5 ♖b4 16 ♙xb4 cb

17 ♖ae1 ♖xc4 18 ♖xc4 d6 19 ♖e3 ♖d5 Black had excellent chances in Ornstein-Bielczyk, Gausdal 1983.

B

4 ... ♖a5 (54)



An interesting attempt to emphasise the shortcomings of White's fourth move.

5 b4!

Other moves:

a) 5 e4 d6 6 ♖f3 g6 (neither now nor on the last move could Black have played 6 ... ♖xe4 because of 7 b4! ♖xb4 8 ♖ab1 ♖a5 9 ♖xb5 ±) 7 ♖c2 (on 7 cb possible is 7 ... ♖xe4) 7 ... a6 8 ♙d3 ♖bd7 9 0-0 ♙g7 10 a3 ♖b6 11 ♖b1 b4 12 ab ♖xb4 13 ♖e1 0-0 and Black has a fairly safe position, Sydor-Miles, Dortmund 1976.

b) 5 ♖c2 bc 6 e4 d6 7 ♖e2 ♖bd7 8 ♖c3 and now:

b1) 8 ... ♖e5? 9 f4 ♖d3 10 ♙xd3 cd 11 ♖xd3 ♙a6 12 ♖c4 ± K.Pytel-Huss, Hastings 1974-5.

b2) 8 ... ♖b6 9 ♖xc4 ♖xc4 10

♙xc4 ♙a6 with a sharp game for Black.

5 ... ♖xb4

Clearly in White's favour is 5 ... cb 6 e4 d6 7 cb.

6 ♖b1 ♖a5

7 ♖xb5 ♖c7

8 ♜f3

Also strong is 8 ♖a4!?, which impedes Black's queenside development.

8 ... d6

9 g3 g6

10 ♙g2 ♙g7

11 0-0 0-0

12 e4 ♜bd7

13 h3

White has a secure space advantage and with it the better chances. In the game Garcia-Vaganian, Moscow 1975, Black played an interesting sacrifice of two pieces for a rook in search of counter-chances: 13 ... ♙a6 14 ♖b3 ♜xe4 15 ♜xe4 ♙xc4 16 ♖e1 ♙xb3 17 ♖xb3 with a sharp game.

## **Part Two**

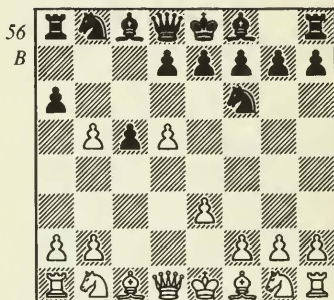
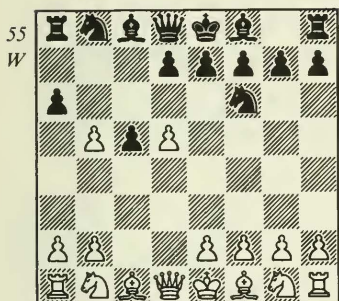
# **Benko Gambit Accepted**





## 6 Modern System: 5 e3

- |   |    |     |
|---|----|-----|
| 1 | d4 | ♘f6 |
| 2 | c4 | c5  |
| 3 | d5 | b5  |
| 4 | cb | a6  |



Apart from the Modern System, covered in this chapter, White has a number of other moves. These are dealt with as follows:

- 5 f3 – Chapter 7
- 5 b6 – Chapter 8
- 5 ♘c3 – Chapter 9
- 5 ba – Chapters 10-13

5 e3 (56)

White defends the pawn on b5 with the bishop and prepares ♘c3 and e4. Black has the choice of:

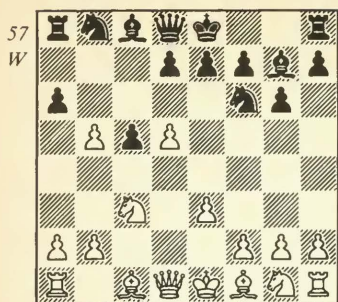
- A 5 ... g6
- B 5 ... ab
- C 5 ... e6

A

5 ... g6

The most solid continuation. Before commencing active operations Black completes his kingside development.

6 ♘c3 ♗g7 (57)



With his next moves White aims to strengthen the points b5, d5 and e4 and to complete his kingside development. With this intention 7  $\text{f3}$ , 7 a4 and 7 e4 have all been employed. Inconsistent is 7 ba, since after this the game takes on the character of the 5 ba variation a tempo down for White. For example, 7 ba 0-0 8  $\text{f3}$  d6 9  $\text{e2}$  (9 e4  $\text{a5}$ ! 10  $\text{d2}$   $\text{xa6}$  11  $\text{xa6}$   $\text{xa6}$  12  $\text{e2}$   $\text{fd7}$ , Benko-De Fotis, US Ch 1972) 9 ...  $\text{xa6}$  10 0-0  $\text{bd7}$  11  $\text{xa6}$   $\text{xa6}$  12  $\text{e2}$   $\text{a8}$ , Arnaudov-Popov, Bulgarian Ch 1973.

A1 7  $\text{f3}$

A2 7 a4

A3 7 e4

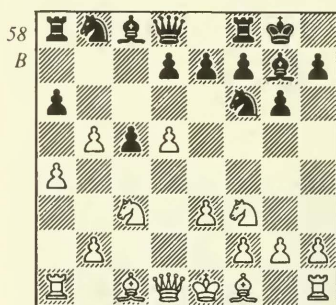
A1

7  $\text{f3}$  0-0

8 a4 (58)

On 8 e4 possible is 8 ... ab 9  $\text{xb5}$   $\text{xe4}$ ! 10  $\text{xe4}$   $\text{a5}$  11  $\text{c3}$   $\text{xc3}$  12 bc  $\text{xb5}$  with active counterplay for Black, Dusobai-Georgadze,

Moscow 1979. Salov-Voitkevich, Sochi 1982, went 8  $\text{e2}$  ab 9  $\text{xb5}$   $\text{a5}$ ! (9 ... d6 10 0-0  $\text{a6}$  11  $\text{xa6}$   $\text{xa6}$  12 e4  $\text{d7}$  13  $\text{g5}$   $\text{e8}$  14  $\text{e1}$   $\pm$  Chusi-Imanaliev, Moscow 1979) 10  $\text{d2}$  (10 0-0  $\text{b7}$ !?) 10 ...  $\text{xd5}$  11  $\text{xd5}$   $\text{xb5}$  12  $\text{xe7}$ + (12  $\text{c7}$   $\text{c6}$ ) 12 ...  $\text{h8}$  13  $\text{xc8}$   $\text{xc8}$  14  $\text{e2}$  c4 15 0-0 d5, when Black had a fully equal game in view of the manoeuvre ...  $\text{a6}$ -b4-d3.



8 ...  $\text{b7}$

The energetic continuation 8 ... d6 will be examined later. Poor is 8 ... ab 9  $\text{xb5}$  d6 10 0-0 or 10  $\text{a3}$  with the better game for White. Interesting is 8 ... e6 9 de (9 d6  $\text{d5}$ ; 9 e4  $\text{b7}$ !) 9 ... fe 10  $\text{d6}$   $\text{b7}$  as in Torre-Vaganian, London 1984. After 11  $\text{e2}$ ! ab 12  $\text{xb5}$   $\text{c8}$  13 0-0  $\text{e8}$  14  $\text{g3}$   $\text{xf3}$  15 gf d5 16 e4  $\text{c6}$ , when Black obtained active counterplay for the pawn. The position after 10  $\text{a3}$  will be looked at later in the text.

9  $\text{a3}$ !?

Now after 9 ... d6?! 10 ♖c4 ab White can play 11 ab, retaining the extra pawn with a secure position.

Other possibilities:

a) 9 ba ♖xa6 10 ♖c4 e6 11 0-0 ♖b4 (11 ... ed!? 12 ♖xd5 ♖c7 13 ♖xf6+ ♖xf6 14 ♖d2 ♖xb2 15 ♖b1 ♖xf3 16 ♖xf3 ♖e5 17 e4 d5!, Agafonov-Lanka, Riga 1982) 12 e4 ♖b6 (12 ... ed 13 ed ♖a6 14 ♖xa6 ♖xa6 15 ♖e3 d6 16 ♖d2, Miles-Sax, Wijk aan Zee 1981) 13 ♖e1 (13 ♖e3 ed 14 ed d6 15 ♖d2 ♖a5 16 ♖ad1 ♖a6 17 ♖xa6 ♖xa6 18 ♖f4 ♖fd8 ± N.N.-Popov, Malta Ol 1980) 13 ... ed 14 ed ♖a6 15 ♖xa6 ♖xa6 16 ♖g5 ♖d3 17 ♖e2 ♖g4 - Averkin-Mochalov, Yurmala 1981.

b) 9 e4?! e6! poses difficult problems for White. The weakness of the d5 pawn leaves him no good response: b1) 10 de fe 11 ♖d6 and Black opens up the game to his advantage. However, 11 ♖g5 ♖c7 12 ♖d3 d5 led to a sharp game in Razuvayev-Gaprinidashvili, Tbilisi 1982.

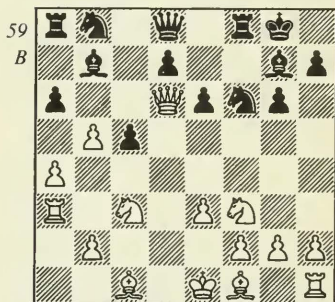
b2) 10 ♖b1 ed 11 ed ab 12 ab d6! 13 ♖c4 (13 ♖e2 ♖bd7 14 0-0 ♖b6 干) 13 ... ♖e8 14 ♖f1 ♖bd7 15 h3 ♖b6 干 Agzamov-Vaganian, Erevan 1982.

b3) 10 ♖g5?! ed 11 ed h6 12 ♖xf6 ♖xf6 13 ♖c1 ♖e8+ 14 ♖e2 ab 15 ab ♖e7 干 Razuvayev-Tseshkovsky, USSR Ch 1978.

9 ... e6  
10 de

Another possibility is to block the centre with 10 d6. There could then follow 10 ... ab 11 ♖xb5 ♖c6 (11 ... ♖e8 12 e4 ♖b6 13 ♖f4 ♖c6 14 0-0 ♖d4 15 a5 ± Petran-Popov, Novi Sad 1981) 12 0-0 ♖b8 13 ♖d2 ♖d8 14 ♖d1 ♖b4 with a complex game, Schroer-Blocker, USA 1983. Better was 10 ... ♖d5!, e.g. 11 ♖e4 ab 12 ♖xc5 b4 13 ♖d3 ♖c6, Baze-Benjamin, New York 1983.

10 ... fe  
11 ♖d6! (59)



An important blockading move. Otherwise Black seizes the initiative after 11 ... d5.

11 ... ab

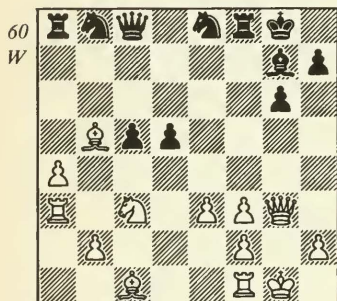
In Tarjan-Benjamin, New York 1983, 11 ... ♖c8 12 ♖e2 ♖e8 13 ♖g3 d5 14 0-0 ♖f6 15 ♖h3! ♖e8 16 ♖d1 ♖e7 17 ♖g5 led to an advantage for White.

12 ♖xb5 ♖c8

Interesting is 12 ... ♖e4 13 ♖xe4

♙xe4 14 0-0 ♖f5, planning to develop an initiative on the king-side.

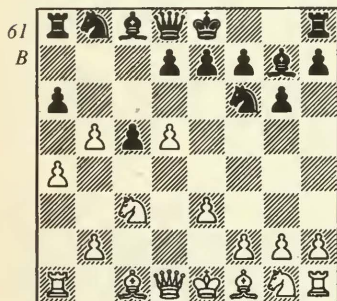
13 0-0 ♘e8  
14 ♖g3 ♙xf3!?  
15 gf d5 (60)



Black has an excellent game. Ravikumar-Miles, Budapest 1985, continued 16 ♙e2 ♘c6 17 f4 ♘d6 18 ♖h3 ♖b8 干.

A2

7 a4 (61)



With this move White plans the development of his king's knight

to e2 and c3.

7 ... 0-0  
8 ♙c4

8 e4 d6 9 ♘f3 will be examined in variation A3. The game Rubai-Salov, Yaroslavl 1983, went 8 ♖b3 e6!? 9 de (9 ba?! ed 10 ♘xd5 ♘xa6 11 ♘f3 ♖b8 12 ♘xf6+ ♖xf6 干 Glyanets-Bajidza, Lvov 1984) 9 ... fe 10 ♘f3 d5 11 b6 ♙b7 12 a5 ♖d6 13 ♙e2 ♘c6.

8 ... e6!?

Black consistently tries to open the game in the centre. The transfer of the knight from b8 to b6 promises nothing: 8 ... d6 9 ♘ge2 ♘bd7 10 ♖a3! ♘b6 11 ♙a2 ab 12 ♘xb5 ♙d7 13 ♘bc3 e6 (13 ... ♖a5!? and then 14 ... ♖a8) 14 de ♙xe6 15 ♘f4 干 Pinter-Binham, Helsinki 1983:

9 ♘ge2 ab  
10 ♙xb5

In the event of 10 ♘xb5 ed 11 ♙xd5 ♘c6 12 0-0 ♙a6 13 ♖a3 Black seizes the initiative by 13 ... ♘xd5 14 ♖xd5 ♖e7 15 ♖d3 ♘e5 16 ♖dd1 ♖fb8, Farago-Vaganian, Hastings 1982-3.

10 ... ed  
11 ♘xd5 ♙b7  
12 ♙c4!?

White intends 13 0-0 and 14 ♘ec3 with a complete blockade of the centre.

12 ... ♘g4!?

If now 13 0-0 then 13 ... ♘xh2! 14 ♘xh2 ♖h4+ 干.



13 ♖f4!? ♗e5  
14 ♙e2 ♗a6  
15 0-0

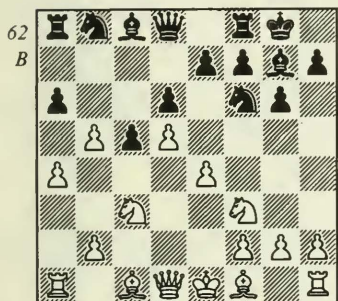
By maintaining possession of d5 White retains some advantage, Spassov-Hebden, Silkeborg 1983.

A3

7 e4

Black must prevent 8 e5 and so 7 ... ab is impossible because of 8 e5! ♗g8 9 e6! ±.

7 ... d6  
8 ♖f3 0-0  
9 a4 (62)



One of the basic positions of the variation. The following moves have been tried:

A31 9 ... ab

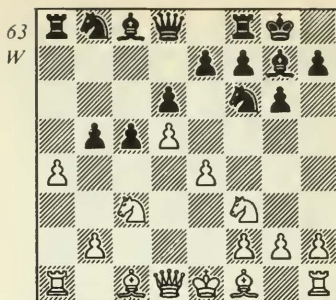
A32 9 ... ♗bd7

A33 9 ... e6

9 ... ♗e8 and 9 ... ♗fd7 are also possible.

A31

9 ... ab (63)



10 ♙xb5 ♙a6  
11 ♙d2!?

A strong consolidating move. On 11 ♙f4 there could follow 11 ... ♗a5! 12 0-0 ♗b4 13 ♗c2 ♙xb5 14 ab ♗bd7 with sufficient counter-play for Black, Farago-Palatnik, Kiev 1978.

11 ... ♗e8

The standard transfer of the knight to c7 with the aim of driving the bishop away from b5. 11 ... ♗bd7 12 0-0 ♗g4 (12 ... ♙xb5?! 13 ab ♗b6 14 h3 ♗fb8 15 ♙g5 h6 16 ♙e3 ± Pinter-Halasz, Hungarian Ch 1979) 13 ♗e2 ♗a5 14 ♗a3! ♗fe8 15 ♗fa1 ♗b6 16 ♗e1 ♗gf6 17 ♗d3 ± Belyavsky-Hodgson, London 1985.

12 0-0 ♗c7

Razuwayev-Kalyagin, Krasnodar 1983, went 12 ... ♗b6?! 13 ♙g5! ♗a7 14 ♗d2 ♗b7 15 ♗c4 ♗d8 16 ♗d2 ±.

13 ♗e2 ♗d7

14 ♗a3

The plan of attacking on the



kingside is interesting: 14 h4!? ♖b6 15 h5 ♙xb5 16 ab ♗d7 17 hg hg 18 ♘g5 ♙f6? 19 f4! ± F.Portisch-Barlov, Belgrade 1975, but 18 ... ♙d4!? was stronger.

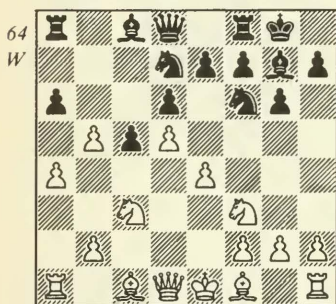
14 ... ♖b6

15 ♙fa1

White has the initiative.

A32

9 ... ♖bd7 (64)



10 ♙a3!?

With the aim of freeing himself from the pin along the a-file. 10 ♙d2 has been tried with the same intention:

a) 10 ... ♖e8?! 11 ♙e2 ♖c7 12 0-0 ♙b7 13 ♙b1 ab 14 ab and in view of the threat of 15 b4 White has a considerable queenside initiative, Farago-Gaprinidashvili, Dortmund 1978.

b) 10 ... e6?! 11 de fe 12 e5! ♖xe5 13 ♖xe5 de 14 ba and Black's position has been broken up, Lukacs-Peyev, Pernik 1976.

c) 10 ... ♙b7!? 11 ♙c4 ♖b6 12

♙b3 ab 13 ab ♙xa1 14 ♗xa1 ♗d7 15 0-0 ± Yuferov-Palatnik, Daugavpils 1978.

10 ... ab!?

Defusing the situation. Passive is 10 ... ♗c7?, e.g. 11 ♙e2 ab 12 ♖xb5 ♗b8 13 ♗c2 ♙a6 14 ♙d2 ♖e8 15 ♙b3! ± Razuvayev-Tukmakov, USSR Ch 1975.

11 ♙xb5 ♙a6

12 ♗e2!?

If 12 ♙xa6 ♙xa6 13 0-0 ♗a8 and Black's threats of 14 ... e6 and 14 ... ♖b6 give him equal chances.

12 ... ♙xb5

13 ♖xb5

Unclear is 13 ab ♙xa3 14 ba ♗a5 15 ♙d2 ♗xa3 16 0-0.

13 ... ♖e8

Interesting is 13 ... ♗a5 14 ♙d2 ♗a6 15 0-0 ♙fb8 with complications.

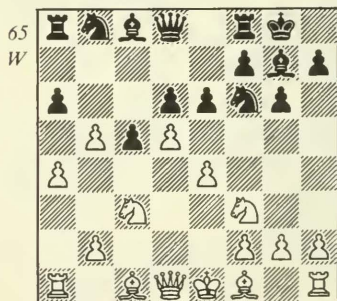
14 0-0 ♖c7

15 b3!

White's chances are preferable, Browne-Alburt, US Ch 1983.

A33

9 ... e6 (65)



Black endeavours to open up the game.

10 de fe

11 e5!?

Otherwise Black seizes the initiative by means of 11 ... d5 or 11 ... ♖b7.

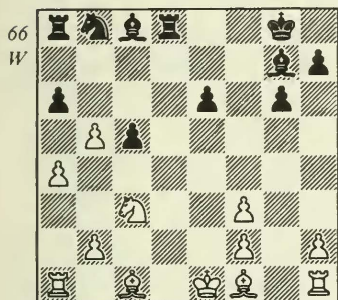
11 ... ♔g4

The exchange of queens after 11 ... de 12 ♖xd8 ♖xd8 13 ♔xe5 is in White's favour.

12 ♖xd6 ♔xe5

13 ♖xd8 ♔xf3+

14 gf ♖xd8 (66)



The opening up of the game has brought greater activity for Black. Despite White's extra pawn Black has very real chances of equality, for example 15 ♖e3 ♖b7 16 ♖c4 ab 17 ♔xb5 ♖xf3 ½-½ Farago-Filipowicz, Polanica Zdroj 1977.

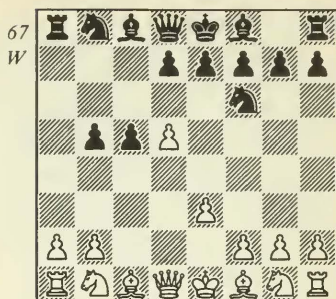
15 ♔e4 ♔d7

16 ♖a3 ♔e5

The chances are approximately even, Ivkov-Vindler, Lone Pine 1981.

B

5 ... ab (67)



6 ♖xb5 ♖a5+

Glorigić-D. Gurevich, Lone Pine 1981, went 6 ... ♖a6 7 ♖xa6 ♔xa6 8 ♔c3 d6 9 ♔f3 g6 10 e4 ♖g7 11 0-0 0-0 12 ♖f4 (12 ♖e1 ♔b4 13 ♖e2 ♖b6 with some counterplay for Black) 12 ... ♖b6 (12 ... ♖b8 13 ♖d2 ♖b4 14 ♔e1 ♖b6 15 ♖b1 ± - Belyavsky-Damjanović, Vilnius 1978) 13 ♖d2 ♔c7 14 ♖fe1 ♖fd8 15 ♖g5 ♔b5 16 a4 ♔xc3 17 bc ♖b3 18 a5 ±.

7 ♔c3 ♖b7

Other tries are:

a) 7 ... ♖a6 8 ♖xa6 ♖xa6 9 ♔ge2! g6 10 0-0 ♖g7 and White has a comfortable game and good prospects on the queenside:

a1) 11 e4 d6 12 ♖b1 0-0 13 b4! ♖c4 14 ♖b3 ♖xb4 15 ♖xb4 cb 16 ♖xb4 ♖c8 17 ♖d2 ± Lukacs-Bukal, Pernik 1976.

a2) 11 ♖b1 d6 12 b4 ♔fd7 13 b5 ♖a5 14 ♖b3 ♖c7 15 ♖a3 ± - Didishko-Shereshevsky, Minsk 1979.

a3) 11 a4 0-0 12 ♖b5 ♗b7 13 ♖ec3 d6 14 e4 ♖a6 15 ♕g5 ♖c7 16 ♜e1 ± Bernstein-Chebb, 1980.

b) 7 ... e6 8 de (8 ♕d2 ♖a6 9 ♕c4 ♖b4 10 ♖ge2 ♕a6 11 ♕xa6 ♗xa6 12 0-0 ♖fxd5, Balogh-Korpasz, Hungary 1973) 8 ... fe 9 ♗b3! (threatens 10 ♗xe6!) 9 ... ♗b6 10 ♖f3 ♕e7 11 0-0 0-0 12 e4 ♗c7 13 ♕g5 ± Tukmakov-Gutman, Ashkhabad 1978.

8 ♕d2

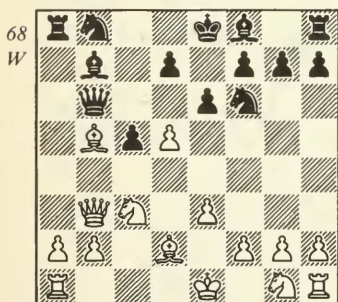
F.Portisch-Herndl, Vienna 1986, continued 8 ♖ge2!? ♖xd5 (8 ... e6 9 0-0 ed 10 ♗b3 ♕c6 11 ♕xc6 dc 12 e4 ± Farago-Polgar, Amsterdam 1985) 9 0-0 ♖xc3 10 ♖xc3 e6 11 e4 ♕e7 12 ♕f4 ♗d8 13 ♗g4 0-0 14 ♜fd1 ±.

8 ... ♗b6

9 ♗b3

Repulsing the threat of 9 ... ♖xd5. On 9 ♕c4 strong is 9 ... e6!, when 10 e4 ♖xe4 11 de fe 12 ♖xe4 ♕xe4 13 ♗h5 ♕g6 gives sharp play, Gruiten-Alekhina, USSR 1984.

9 ... e6 (68)



10 e4

This seems an obvious continuation, but it allows an intensification of the struggle. The latter can be avoided by 10 ♕c4 ♗xb3 11 ♕xb3 ed 12 ♖ge2 ♖a6 13 0-0, returning the gambit pawn but taking the initiative by increasing the pressure on Black's pawns:

a) 13 ... ♖c7 14 ♜fd1 ♕d6 15 ♕e1 0-0 16 ♜ac1 ♕c6 17 ♖g3 ♜fb8 18 ♜b1 ± Ornstein-Biriescu, Vienna 1986.

b) 13 ... ♕e7 14 ♜fd1 0-0 15 ♕e1 c4 (15 ... ♖c7 16 ♖f4 c4 17 ♕c2 ± Pinter-Ernst, Thessaloniki Ol 1984) 16 ♕c2 ♕c6 17 ♖f4 ♖b4 18 ♕b1 ± Hjartarson-Fedorowicz, Hastings 1985-6.

10 ... ♖xe4!?

11 ♖xe4 ♕xd5

12 ♗d3 f5!?

Interesting is 12 ... ♗b7!? 13 f3 c4!? 14 ♕xc4 ♕c4 15 ♗xc4 d5 with a complicated game, Litvinchuk-Wolf, USA 1985.

12 ... f5 is the point of Black's combination. He wins the exchange and a pawn for his piece sacrifice as 13 ♖g5? ♕xg2 ♖ loses White a rook.

13 ♖g3 ♕xg2

14 a4!?

The most exact move, although 14 ♖le2 ♕xh1 15 ♖xh1 ♕e7 16 a4 brings about the same position by transposition.

14 ... ♕e7!?



The inclusion of the moves 14 ... ♖b7 15 f3 ♗e7 16 ♜1e2 plays into White's hands: 16 ... ♗xh1 17 ♜xh1 0-0 18 0-0-0! and White has excellent chances for an attack on the kingside by means of 19 ♗c3, 20 ♜f4 and then ♜h5 and ♖g1, Belyavsky-Miles, Thessaloniki Ol 1984.

### 15 ♜1e2

The knight is headed for f4. 15 ♜f3 ♗xh1 16 ♜xh1 is possible but weaker.

15 ... ♗xh1

16 ♜xh1 0-0

17 ♜hg3

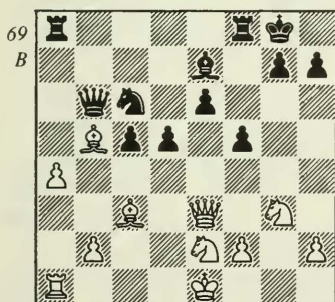
It would now be dangerous to plan queenside castling: 17 ♗c3 d5 18 0-0-0 ♜a6! with the threat of 19 ... ♜c7, and if 19 ♗e5 ♗f6! revives the threat of 20 ... ♜c7.

17 ... ♜c6!?

Dangerous now is 18 ♖xd7? in view of 18 ... ♜e5 19 ♖xe7 ♖f7, and White loses his queen.

18 ♗c3 d5

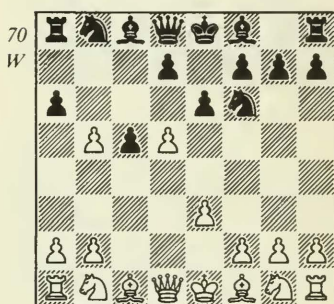
19 ♖e3 (69)



The critical position for this variation. Black's chances depend on whether he succeeds in bringing his central pawn phalanx into action. 19 ... e5?! is risky for Black: 20 ♗xe5 ♗g5 21 f4 ♖ae8 22 ♗xc6 ♖xc6 23 ♖c1 ♗e7 24 b4 ± Plaskett-Barlov, Bor 1985. Better is 19 ... ♜d8 ± as in D. Gurevich-Nicholson, Lugano 1985.

C

5 ... e6 (70)



White has the choice between strengthening and relinquishing the centre:

C1 6 ♜c3

C2 6 de

C1

6 ♜c3 ed

7 ♜xd5

Dubious is 7 ♜ge2 ab 8 ♜xb5 ♜a6 9 ♜ec3 ♗b7 10 ♗e2 ♜c7! 11 0-0 ♜xb5 12 ♜xb5 ♗e7 13 b3 0-0 14 ♗b2 ♖b6 with full equality for Black in the game Stohl-

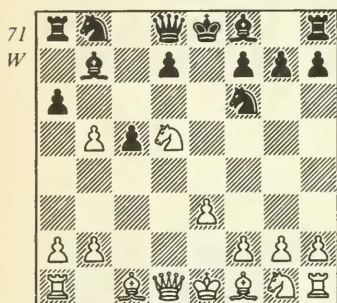
Plachetka, Czechoslovakia 1975.

C11 7 ... ♖b7

C12 7 ... ab

C11

7 ... ♖b7 (71)



8 ♜xf6+

Interesting is the sharp 8 e4!? ab 9 ♖g5, for example 9 ... ♖e7 10 ♜xe7 ♖xe7 11 f3 0-0 12 ♖xb5 d5 13 ♜e2 de 14 fe ♖e5 with a sharp game, Ree-Sax, Malta Ol 1980.

8 ... ♖xf6

9 ♜f3 ♖e7

If 9 ... ♖d6 White can exploit the vulnerable position of the bishop by 10 ♖d2! and if 10 ... ♖xb2 then 11, ♖c1 ♖f6 12 ♖c3. For example, 12 ... ♖xf3?! 13 gf ♖e5 14 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 15 ♖g2! ♖c7 16 ♖d5 ♖a5+ 17 ♜d1 ± Bagirov-Shereshevsky, Baku 1985. Stronger is 12 ... ♖e7, e.g. 13 a4 ab 14 ab ♖c7 15 ♖c4 0-0 16 ♖d5 ♖a7 17 0-0 ♖d6 18 b6! ♖xb6 19 ♖b1 ± Bagirov-Machulsky, USSR 1975.

10 ba

Poor is 10 ♖b3 0-0!? 11 ba? in view of 11 ... ♖xf3! 12 gf ♖xf3 13 ♖g1 ♖h4! and White's position was critical, Portisch-Vaganian, Kecskemet 1979.

10 ... ♜xa6

11 ♖e2 ♜b4

Or 11 ... 0-0 12 ♖d2 ♖e6 13 0-0 ♜c7, Portisch-Ciocaltea, Ljubljana 1973.

12 a3 0-0

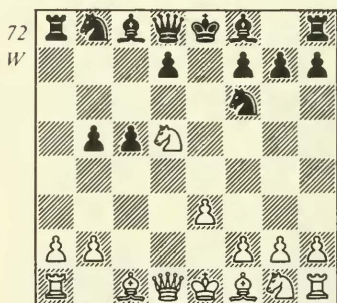
13 0-0 ♖e4

14 ♜e1 d5

Black has taken the initiative, Timoshchenko-Arbakov, Irkutsk 1983.

C12

7 ... ab (72)



8 ♖xb5

Another possibility is 8 ♜xf6+ ♖xf6 9 ♖xb5 ♖b7 10 ♜f3 ♖e7 11 0-0 0-0 12 e4!? (otherwise Black plays 12 ... d5 with the initiative) 12 ... ♖c6!? (dangerous is 12 ... ♖xe4 13 ♖g5 ♖e6 14 ♖e1 ±) 13 ♖g5! f6 14 ♖h4 ♖xe4 (14 ... ♖xe4?!



15 ♖e1 d5 16 ♜d2 ±) 15 ♖e1 ♖b4!?, Bangiev-Kovitev, USSR 1983.

8 ... ♙b7

Or 8 ... ♜xd5 9 ♖xd5 ♖a5 10 ♙d2 (10 ♜d2?! ♖xb5 11 ♖xa8 ♙a6 12 ♖f3 ♜c6 with the threat of 13 ... ♜e5) 10 ... ♖xb5 11 ♖xa8 ♙a6 12 0-0-0 ♙e7 13 ♙c3 ±.

9 ♙c4!?

Strengthening d5 – the leitmotif of White's actions in this variation.

9 ... ♙e7

Simplification makes White's task easier: 9 ... ♜xd5 10 ♙xd5 ♙xd5 11 ♖xd5 ♜c6 12 ♙d2 ♙e7 13 ♜e2 0-0 ± Farago-Knaak, Leipzig 1975.

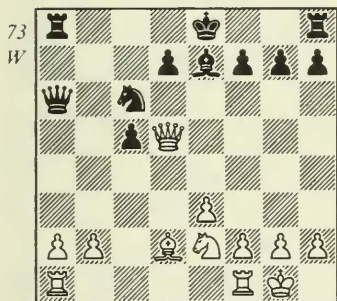
10 ♜e2 ♜xd5

11 ♙xd5 ♙xd5

12 ♖xd5 ♖a5+

13 ♙d2 ♖a6

14 0-0 ♜c6 (73)

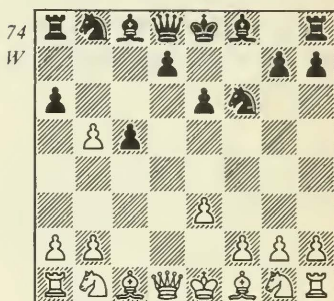


Black has comfortably developed his pieces, but occupation of the d5 square guarantees White a small but persistent advantage: 15 ♜f4

0-0 16 ♙c3 and White's chances were preferable in Tukmakov-Bednarski, Decin 1977.

C2

6 de fe (74)



A Blumenfeld Gambit position has arisen in which White has relinquished control of the centre. In particular the d5 square secures Black's initiative, giving him compensation for the pawn.

7 ♜f3 d5

Mering-Bielczyk, Zamardi 1978, went 7 ... ♙e7?! 8 ba 0-0 9 ♙e2 ♙xa6 10 0-0 ♜c6 11 ♜c3 d5 12 ♙xa6 ♖xa6 13 ♖e2 ♖a8 ±.

8 ♜c3

The game Didishko-Vakulenko, USSR 1974, saw 8 ♜bd2?! c4! 9 ba ♜xa6 10 ♙e2 ♜b4! 11 a3 ♙d7 ♢ while Grunberg-Knaak, East German Ch 1980, went 8 b3 ♙d6 9 ♙b2 0-0 10 ♜bd2 ♜bd7 11 ♖c2 ♖b6 (11 ... ♖e7!?) 12 ♙d3! ab 13 ♜g5 with an attack for White.

8 ... ♙d6

9 e4!?

White plays actively against Black's pawn centre. Both 9 ... de?! 10 ♖g5 ± and 9 ... d4 10 e5 ± give White an advantage. Passive is 9 ... ♙e7 10 ba d4 (better is 10 ... 0-0 ±) 11 ♗b1 0-0 12 ♗bd2 ♖a5 13 ♙c4! ♗xe4 14 ♖e2 ♗xd2 15 ♙xd2 ± Veremeichik-Shereshevsky, USSR 1974.

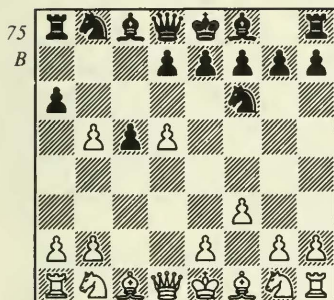
9 ... ♙c7!?

10 e5 ♗e4!?

The forced variation 11 ♗xe4 de 12 ♖xd8 ♗xd8 13 ♗g5 ♙a5+ 14 ♙d2 ♙xd2+ 15 ♗xd2 0-0 gives Black definite counter-chances, Tatai-Bellon, Rome 1983. Sharper is 11 ♙d3 ♗xc3 12 bc c4 13 ♙c2 with attacking possibilities for White.

# 7 5 f3

1 d4 ♘f6  
2 c4 c5  
3 d5 b5  
4 cb a6  
5 f3 (75)



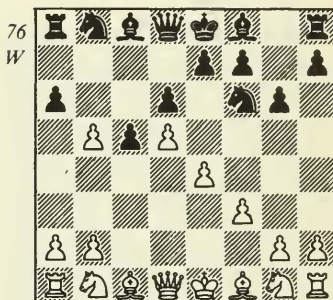
White prepares and carries out the important move e4, but in doing this he will lag behind somewhat in development.

5 ... g6

Opening the centre does not work: 5 ... e6 6 e4 cd 7 e5! ♖e7 8 ♗e2 ♘g8 9 ♘c3 ♙b7 10 ♘h3! c4 (10 ... d4 11 ♘e4 ±) 11 ♙e3 ab 12 ♘f4 ± Ariokha-Hebden, Chicago 1984.

Bareyev-Arbakov, Moscow 1985, went 5 ... ab 6 e4 ♗a5+ 7 ♙d2 ♗b6 8 ♗b3 ♙a6 9 ♘a3 b4 10 ♙xa6 ♗xa6 11 ♘c4 ±.

6 e4 d6 (76)



Here White has two possibilities:

A 7 ♘c3

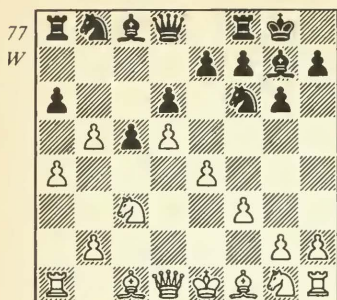
B 7 a4

A

7 ♘c3 ♙g7

8 a4 0-0 (77)

Black has completed his king-side development and is ready to carry out the important central strike ... e6. In Bareyev-Gorelov,



Moscow 1984, Black achieved a winning attack after 9 ♖e3 e6 10 de ♙xe6 11 ♜f2 d5 12 ed ♜xd5 13 ♙xc5 ♜bd7! 14 ♙xf8 ♜b6+ 15 ♜e1 ♜xc3.

### 9 ♙c4

a) 9 ♜ge2 e6 10 de fe (10 ... ♙xe6!?) 11 e5! ♜e8 12 ed ♜xd4 13 ♙e3 ♜c4 14 ♜xd8 ♜xd8 15 ♙g5 ♜d7, Gleizerov-Kaidanov, Bryansk 1984.  
b) Interesting is 9 ♙g5 ♜e8 10 ♜d2, for example 10 ... ♜bd7?! 11 ♜h3! ♜b6 12 ♜f2 e6 13 a5 ab 14 ♙xb5 ♙d7, Wiener-Gheorghiu, Adelaide 1971, and now 15 de fe 16 ♜xd6 gives White the better game. Sharper was 10 ... e6, planning 11 ... h6.

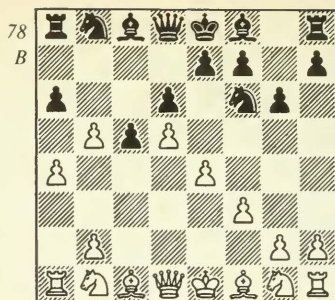
### 9 ... ♜bd7

### 10 ♜ge2

10 ... ♜e5 11 b3 ♜fd7 12 f4 ♜xc4 13 bc ♜a5 14 ♜d3 ♜b6 Black retains chances for equality by attacking the weak c4 pawn.

B

### 7 a4 (78)



White intends 8 ♜a3, strengthening b5. The immediate 7 ♜a3 has also been seen: 7 ... ♙g7 (7 ... ab?! 8 ♙xb5+ ♜bd7 9 ♜e2 ♙g7 10 ♜c3 0-0 11 ♙g5 ♜e8 12 ♜c4 ± Lim-Botto, Tientsin 1975) 8 ♜e2 ab (8 ... 0-0 9 ♜c3 ♜bd7 10 ♙e2 ab 11 ♜axb5 ♙a6 12 a4 ♜e8 13 0-0 ♜c7 14 ♜a3 ± Garcia-Petrović, Jajce 1981) 9 ♜xb5 0-0 10 ♜ec3 ♜a6 11 ♙e2 ♜c7 12 0-0 ♙a6 13 a4 ♜d7 14 ♜a3 ± N.Garcia-Savereide, Malta Ol 1980.

### 7 ... ♙g7

### 8 ♜a3

Other continuations:

a) 8 ♙e3 0-0 9 ♜d2 ♜e8 10 ba ♙xa6 11 ♙xa6 ♜xa6 12 ♜ge2 e6 13 de fe, Chandler-Delaney, Malta Ol 1980.

b) 8 a5 ab 9 ♙xb5+ ♜fd7 10 ♜a4 0-0 11 ♜e2 ♜a6 12 0-0 (more consistent was 12 ♜ec3 ♜c7 13 ♙e2) 12 ... ♜c7 13 ♙c4 ♜b8 14 ♜d2 ♜e5, Korchnoi-Miles, Amsterdam 1976.

### 8 ... 0-0

## 9 ♖c4

After 9 ♖ge2 e6! White has definite problems in maintaining his centre:

a) 10 d4 f6 11 ♖g5 h6 12 ♖e3 ♖b7 13 ♖f4 ♖e8 14 ba ♖xa6 15 ♗b3 ♗e7 16 ♖c4 ♖d5! and Black takes the initiative – Av.Bykhovsky-Korosunsky, Bryansk 1985.

b) 10 ♖c3 ♖b7 11 ♖c4 ab 12 ♖axb5 ed 13 ♖xd5 ♖e8 14 0-0 ♖c6 with full equality for Black, Goodman-Kalinkin, Mexico (World U-26 Team Ch) 1978.

9 ... ♖bd7

## 10 ♖e2

Inconsistent would be 10 ♖a2, when after 10 ... ♖b6 11 b3 e6!? 12 ♖e2 ed 13 ed ♖b7 14 ♖c3 ♖g4! with complications advantageous to Black in Jauregui-Barbeau, Canadian Ch 1981.

10 ... ♖e5

11 ♖a2 ab

12 ab ♖e8

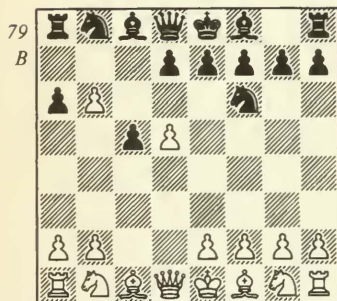
13 0-0 ♗b6

The weakness of b5 enabled Black to obtain sufficient counter-chances in Muchnik-Arakhmia, Chernigov 1985.



# 8 5 b6

- |   |         |     |
|---|---------|-----|
| 1 | d4      | ♘f6 |
| 2 | c4      | c5  |
| 3 | d5      | b5  |
| 4 | cb      | a6  |
| 5 | b6 (79) |     |



White returns the pawn, hoping to use c4 for his pieces.

- |   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
| 5 | ... | d6 |
|---|-----|----|

Intending the manoeuvre ... ♘bd7-b6. Weaker is 5 ... ♖xb6, since White carries out the knight tour ♘f3-d2-c4 with gain of tempo, as in Mititelu-Georgadze, Regin 1975: 6 ♘c3 g6 7 ♘f3 d6 8 ♘d2 ♙g7 9 e4 0-0 10 ♘c4 ♖c7 11 a4

with some advantage to White.

- |   |     |      |
|---|-----|------|
| 6 | ♘c3 | ♘bd7 |
| 7 | e4  |      |

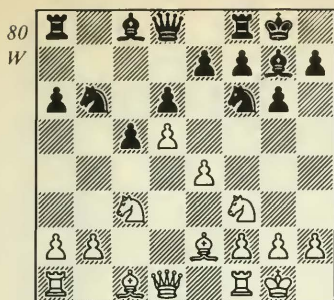
Grigorian-Egin, Leningrad 1985, went 7 ♘f3 g6 8 a4!? (forcing Black to take on b6) 8 ... ♖xb6 (8 ... ♘bx6 9 a5 ♘bd7±) 9 a5 ♖c7 10 e4 ♙g7 11 h3 0-0 12 ♙c4 ♘e8 13 0-0 ♖b7 14 ♖e2 ♘c7 15 ♙f4 and White has some initiative in the centre.

- |   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
| 7 | ... | g6 |
|---|-----|----|

On 7 ... ♘xb6 could come 8 a4!? with the threat of 9 a5. Bronstein-Grigorian, Minsk 1983, continued 8 ... ♖b8 9 ♘f3 ♘bd7 10 ♙c4 g6 11 ♖e2 ♖b4 12 a5 ♙g7 13 h3 0-0 14 0-0 ♙b7 15 ♙f4 ±.

- |    |     |           |
|----|-----|-----------|
| 8  | ♘f3 | ♙g7       |
| 9  | ♙e2 | 0-0       |
| 10 | 0-0 | ♘xb6 (80) |

Inconsistent is 10 ... ♖xb6 11 h3 and then 11 ... ♖b8 12 ♖c2 ♖e8 13 ♖b1 ♖c7 14 ♙f4 ♘b6 15 ♖fe1 ♙b7 16 ♖bd1 ♖bd8 17 a4 ± Terentiev-Foigel, USSR 1976.



White stands freer. His chances of obtaining an advantage depend on preparing e5 while at the same time restricting Black's counterplay on the queenside.

### 11 ♕f4

The most active. Other continuations:

a) 11 ♖e1 ♕g4 12 ♜d2 ♕xe2 13 ♗xe2 ♖e8 14 ♜f3 e6 15 de ♖xe6, Sher-Galakhov, Odessa 1980.

b) 11 ♕g5 h6 12 ♕h4 g5 13 ♕g3 ♜h5 14 ♖e1 ♜xg3 15 hg e6, Kozma-

Popov, Varna 1975.

c) 11 h3 e6! 12 de ♕xe6 13 ♕g5 ♗d7 14 ♖c1 h6 15 ♕e3 ♖fd8 16 ♜d2 ♗b7 17 ♕f3 ♜fd7, Said-Georgadze, USSR 1976.

d) 11 ♗c2 ♗c7 12 h3 ♕b7 13 ♖d1 ♖fe8 14 ♖b1 e6!? 15 de ♖xe6 16 ♜g5 ♖e7 17 ♕f4 ♖d8± Kurbatov-Martinov, Leningrad 1985.

e) 11 ♜d2 e6 12 de ♕xe6 13 ♜f3 d5 14 ed ♜fxd5 15 ♜xd5 ♗xd5 16 ♜g5 ♗xd1 17 ♖d1 ♕c4, Virchikov-Mikh.Tseitlin, Krasnodar 1983.

### 11 ... ♜h5

Pfleger-Benko, Skopje Ol 1972, saw 11 ... ♕g4 12 ♜d2?! ♕xe2 13 ♗xe2 ♗d7 14 a4 ♗g4 15 ♗e3 ♜h5 ♠ (12 h3 ♕xf3 13 ♕xf3 ♜bd7 =).

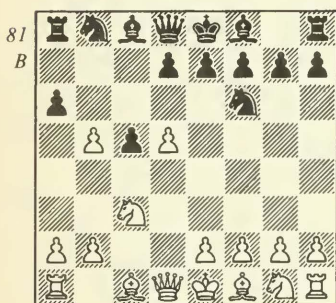
### 12 ♕e3 e5

### 13 de ♕xe6

Black's queenside counterplay is sufficient to give him equal chances.

## 9 Zaitsev Variation: 5 ♖c3

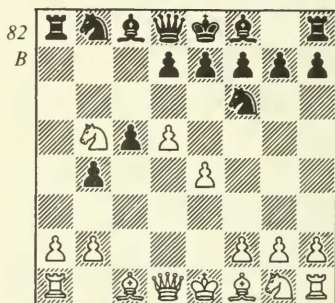
- |   |          |     |
|---|----------|-----|
| 1 | d4       | ♟f6 |
| 2 | c4       | c5  |
| 3 | d5       | b5  |
| 4 | cb       | a6  |
| 5 | ♞c3 (81) |     |



The Zaitsev Variation, leading to sharp play from the earliest stages of the game.

- |   |          |    |
|---|----------|----|
| 5 | ...      | ab |
| 6 | e4       | b4 |
| 7 | ♞b5 (82) |    |

A point of departure in the Zaitsev Variation. White has got in the move e4, but his knight on b5 is definitely out on a limb.



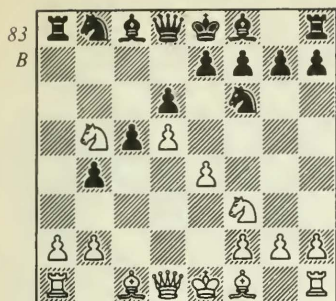
- |   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
| 7 | ... | d6 |
|---|-----|----|

Forced, in view of 8 e5. 7 ... ♞xe4? loses to 8 ♖e2. It is essential for White to play e5, otherwise the poor position of his knight becomes a problem. It can be prepared by:  
A 8 ♞f3  
B 8 ♞f4

Nothing comes from 8 ♞c4 due to 8 ... g6! (8 ... ♞xe4? 9 ♖e2 ♞f6 10 ♞f4 ±, or 9 ... f5 10 f3 ♞f6 11 ♞f4 ±) 9 ♞f4 ♞g7 10 e5 de 11 ♞xe5 0-0 12 ♞f3 ♞a6 and Black has everything under control.

A

8 ♖f3 (83)



8 ... g6

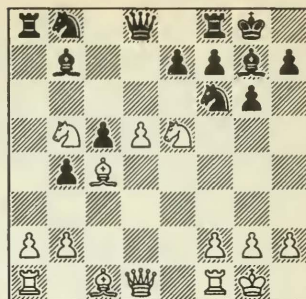
Unsuccessful is 8 ... ♖xe4 because of 9 ♙c4! ♖d7 (9 ... e6 10 ♖e2 ♖f6 11 ♙f4 with the threat of 12 ♖xd6) 10 ♖e2 ♖df6 11 ♙f4 with threats of 12 ♖g5 or 12 ♖d2.

Other continuations:

a) 8 ... ♖a6 9 ♙f4 g6 10 e5! ♖h5 11 ♙g5 f6 12 e6! fg 13 ♖xg5 ± Tukmakov-Vaganian, Vilnius 1976.  
 b) 8 ... ♙g4 9 ♙e2 ♖xf3 10 ♙xf3 ♖bd7 11 0-0 g6 12 ♙f4 ♖b8 13 ♖e2 ♙a5 14 a4 with initiative to White, Knežević-Miles, Dubna 1976.

9	e5	de
10	♖xe5	♙g7
11	♙c4	0-0
12	0-0	♙b7!? (84)

White has brought about the opening of the centre and the co-operation of his pieces. Black meanwhile has completed his development and is starting a counter-attack on the weak d5 pawn.

84  
W

Alternatives for Black here are weaker:

a) 12 ... ♖fd7 13 ♖xd7 (13 f4?! ♖b6! 14 b3 ♙b7 15 ♙e3 ♖8d7, Gligorić-Deže, Novi Sad 1976) 13 ... ♖xd7 14 d6 ed 15 ♖xd6 and White's chances are better, Farago-Barczay, Hungarian Ch 1976.  
 b) 12 ... ♙a6 13 ♙e1 ♙xb5 14 ♙xb5 ♖xd5 15 ♖e2 (weaker is 15 ♖c2? because of 15 ... b3!, Gulko-Vasyukov, Erevan 1976) 15 ... e6 with an unclear position.  
 c) 12 ... ♖e4 13 ♙e1 ♖d6 14 ♖xd6 ed 15 ♖d3.

13 d6 ♖c6

After 13 ... e6 14 ♖c7 gives White serious threats. The best defence is 14 ... ♖d5 15 ♙xd5 ed 16 ♙f4 ♖xd6! sacrificing the exchange but with chances for equality.

14 ♙f4

Poor is 14 ♖xc6 ♙xc6 15 de ♖xe7 16 ♙e1 in view of 16 ... ♙ad8! with an initiative to Black. Interesting is 14 f4!? to strengthen



the knight on e5.

14 ... ♗xe5

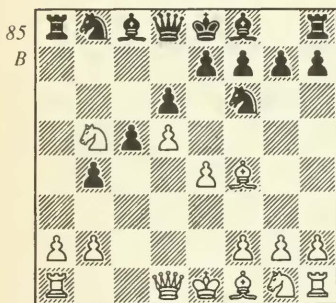
More consistent is 14 ... ♗h5, for example 15 ♗xc6 ♗xc6 16 ♗g5 ♗xb5! 17 ♗xb5 ♖xd6 18 ♖e2 with a sharp, unclear game but some initiative to White.

15 ♗e5 ♗e4

Forcing a simplification that led to equality in Ftacnik-Plachetka, Trencianske Teplice 1985: 16 ♗xg7 ♗xg7 17 de ♖xe7 18 f3 ♗g5! 19 ♖e1 ♖f6 20 ♖d6!.

B

8 ♗f4 (85)



8 ... ♗bd7

This is considered essential in view of the threat of 9 e5, for example:

a) 8 ... g6 9 e5 ♗h5 (9 ... de 10 ♗xe5 ±) 10 ed ed 11 ♖e2+ ♗d7 12 ♗e3, Kaidanov-Grigorian, Kuibishev 1981.

b) 8 ... ♗a6 9 ♗c4 (9 e5 de 10 ♗xe5 doesn't work in view of 10 ...

♖xd5) 9 ... g6 10 e5! de (on 10 ... ♗h5 strong is 11 ♖a4! ♗d7 12 e6!) 11 ♗xe5 ♗g7 12 ♗f3 with a sharp game.

c) Deserving of attention is 8 ... g5!?:

c1) 9 ♗xg5 can be met by 9 ... ♗xe4, e.g. 10 ♗f4 ♗g7 11 ♖e2 ♗f6 12 ♗d6+ ♗f8 13 ♗xc8 ♖xc8 with a sharp game.

c2) 9 ♗e3 is better: 9 ... ♖a5!? (9 ... ♗xe4 10 ♗d3 ♗f6 11 ♗g5 ♗g7 12 ♗e2 ♗bd7 13 0-0 ♗e5 14 a4 ♗xd3 15 ♖xd3 0-0, Fronczek-Dobosz, Poland 1976) 10 e5 ♗e4 11 ♗f3 ♗g7 12 ♗d3 g4 with a very sharp game in Donner-Nun, Hradec Kralove 1979.

d) 8 ... e5!? is a consistent but not yet sufficiently tested response. 9 de ♗xe6 and now:

d1) 10 ♗xd6 ♗xd6 11 ♖xd6 ♖xd6 12 ♗xd6+ ♗e7 13 ♗f5+ ♗f8 14 f3 ♖xa2 15 ♖xa2 ♗xa2 with chances for equality, Ryabikhin-Zlochevsky, Samarkand 1983.

b) 10 ♗f3 ♗xe4 11 ♖e2 ♗f6 12 ♗g5 ♖d7 13 g3 ♗e7 14 ♖d1 0-0 15 ♗xe6 ♖xe6 16 ♖xe6 fe 17 ♗xd6 ♗d5 ♖ Barsov-Kishnev, Samarkand 1983.

9 ♗f3

B1 9 ... ♗b6

B2 9 ... ♗h5

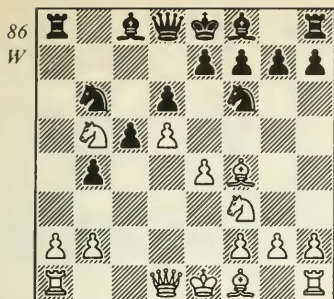
B3 9 ... ♗a6

B1

9 ...

♗b6 (86)





10 ♖c1

With the threat of 11 ♖xc5!.

10 ... ♖a5!

Not 10 ... ♖xe4? 11 ♖d3 ♖f6 12 ♗e2 e6 13 de fe 14 ♖g5 ±.

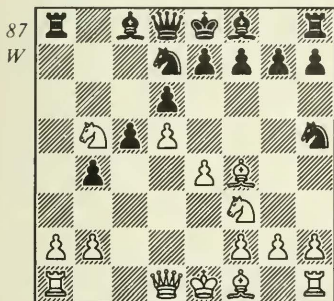
11 a3! ♗d7

12 ♖xc5!? dc

13 ♖c7+ ♖d8 14 ♖e5 ♗a4 15 b3 ♗xa3 16 ♖xf7+ ♖d7 17 ♖b5 ±  
Stettler-Becker, E Germany 1977.

B2

9 ... ♖h5 (87)



10 ♖g5 ♗b6

Or 10 ... ♖hf6 11 e5! ♖xe5 12

♖xe5 de 13 ♖c4 with an initiative to White.

11 ♖d2 g6

12 a4

Rashkovsky-Zilberman, USSR 1975, went 12 ♖c4 ♗b8 13 a4 ♖g7 14 ♖d3 h6 15 ♖e3 ♖a6 16 0-0 0-0 ±.

12 ... ♖g7

13 ♖e2 ♖hf6

14 0-0 0-0

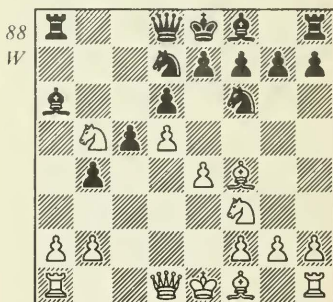
15 ♖e1 ±

Sideif-Zade-Zilberman, USSR 1985.

B3

9 ... ♖a6 (88)

An inadequate deterrent to the threat of e5.



10 e5 ♗a5!?

This was the intention behind Black's ninth move.

11 a4!

White plays this move all the same.

11 ... ♖h5!?

11 ... ba 12 ♙d2! ♜b6 13 ♜xa3  
 ♜xd5 14 ♙c4 ♙b7 15 ♜xa8 ♙xa8  
 16 ♜a4 gave White the initiative in  
 Dshanoyev-Kalatozishvili, Georgia  
 1976.

12 ♙g5 h6

13 ♙e3

Chekhov-Vasyukov, USSR Ch  
 1980-1, went 13 e6?! hg 14 ed+

♜xd7 15 ♜xg5 b3+ 16 ♜c3 ♜f6  
 17 ♙xa6 ♜xa6 18 ♜xf7 ♜h4! ♚.

13 ... de

14 ♜xe5 ♜xe5

15 ♜xh5 c4

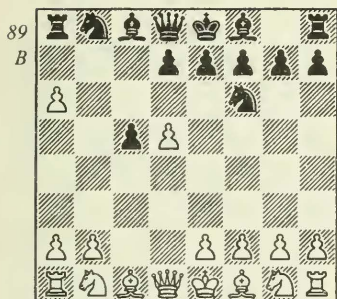
16 ♜xe5 ♙xb5

17 b3!?

White's chances are preferable,  
 Barsov-Eshi, Tashkent 1983.

## 10 5 ba: Early Divergences

- 1 d4            ♘f6  
 2 c4            c5  
 3 d5            b5  
 4 cb            a6  
 5 ba (89)



Here we shall examine:

- A 5 ... g6  
 B 5 ... e6  
 C 5 ... ♙xa6

A

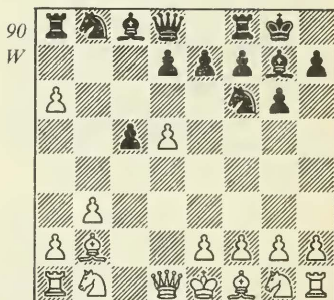
5 ... g6

An interesting continuation, the aim of which is to have the possibility of taking on a6 with the knight. White has at his disposal:

- A1 6 b3  
 A2 6 g3  
 A3 6 ♘c3

A1

- 6 b3            ♙g7  
 7 ♙b2            0-0 (90)



- 8 g3            ♘xa6!?

The position arising after 8 ... ♘xa6 will be considered later on.

- 9 ♙g2            ♙b7!?

Black's counterplay is directed against d5.

- 10 e4

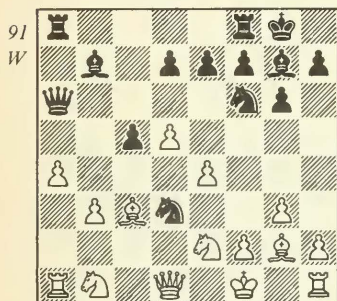
After 10 ♘c3 strong is 10 ... ♙a5!

threatening 11 ... ♖xd5. The game Rumyantsev-Palatnik, Odessa 1979, went 11 ♖d2 ♖c7 12 e4 ♙a6 13 ♗ge2 ♜fb8 14 ♜d1 ♙xe2 15 ♗xe2 ♗fe8 16 ♜b1 ♗b5 with advantage to Black.

10 ... ♙a5+  
11 ♙c3 ♗b4  
12 ♗e2 ♙b5  
13 a4!?

Otherwise White simply loses the a2 pawn.

13 ... ♗d3+  
14 ♗f1 ♙a6 (91)



The critical position of the variation. If White succeeds in transferring his knight from b1 to b5 or c4 then that will decide the opening struggle in his favour, but meanwhile Black has the initiative – he threatens 15 ... ♗g4, menacing f2.

15 ♙f3

Defending against the above mentioned threat and preparing 16 ♗g2. Another possibility is 15 h3 but then 15 ... e6! led to an

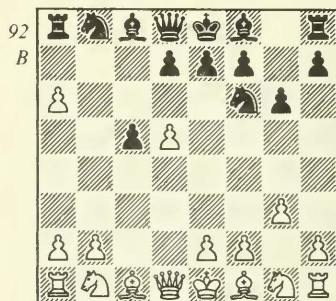
advantage for Black in Zilberman-Bikhovsky, Kaliningrad 1983: 16 ♜a2 ed 17 ed ♗xd5 18 ♙xg7 ♗xg7 19 ♜d2 ♗5b4 干.

15 ... e6!?  
16 ♗g2 ed  
17 ed ♗xd5  
18 ♙xg7 ♗xg7  
19 ♗ec3 ♗5b4

Black has the better position, Lputian-Bikhovsky, Irkutsk 1983.

A2

6 g3 (92)



6 ... d6

If Black plays 6 ... ♙g7 he has to consider the possibility of 7 d6!?

7 ♙g2

Also possible is 7 b3 ♙g7 8 ♙b2 ♗xa6 9 ♙g2 0-0 (which transposes to A1 with the inclusion of the move ... d6 instead of ... ♙b7) 10 e4 (Pavlović-Georgadze, Lugano 1985, went 10 ♖d2? ♙f5 11 ♗f3? ♗b4 with the irresistible threat of 12 ... ♗c2) 10 ... ♙a5+ 11 ♙c3 ♗b4 12 ♗e2 (the complications

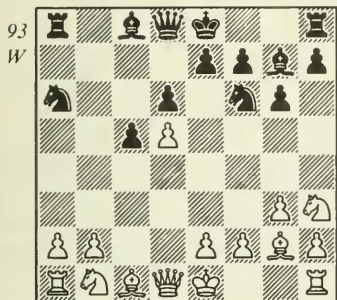
after 12 a3 ♖fxd5! are in Black's favour, e.g. 13 ed ♙f5 14 ♙xg7 ♜xg7 15 ♜f1 ♜c2 16 ♜a2 ♜b5+ 17 ♜e2 ♜xb3 ♞) 12 ... ♜b5 etc, as was seen in A1.

7 ... ♙g7

8 ♜h3

A transposition to the main variation is effected after 8 ♜f3 ♙xa6, while after 8 ... ♜xa6!? the game Akhmilovskaya-Khasanova, Moscow 1983, went 9 0-0 0-0 10 ♜c3 ♜c7 11 e4 ♙a6 12 ♜e1 ♜d7 13 ♙f4 ♜b8 14 ♜b1 ♜b5 15 ♙e3 ±, which also transposes to the main variation.

8 ... ♜xa6 (93)



In this variation 8 ... ♜xa6 is a more active continuation than the standard 8 ... ♙xa6 since Black quickly brings pressure to bear on the d5 pawn.

In Formanek-Conquest, Hastings 1985-6, White played poorly: 9 0-0 0-0 10 f4 ♜g4 11 e3 c4! 12 ♜a3 ♜b4 13 ♜xc4 ♙a6 14 ♜xg4 ♙xc4 with the initiative to Black.

A3

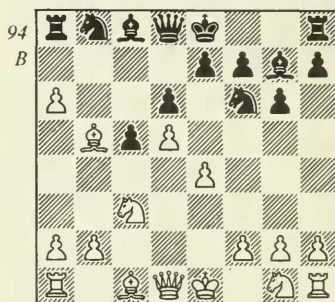
6 ♜c3 d6

Now White can play e4 without having to allow Black a disruptive capture on f1. After 6 ... ♙xa6 the basic position of the Benko Gambit arises.

7 e4 ♙g7

8 ♙b5+!? (94)

8 ♜f3 0-0 9 h3 ♜b6 10 ♙e2 ♙xa6 11 0-0 ♜bd7 12 ♜e1 ♜fb8 13 ♜b1 ♜e8 14 ♙d2 ♜c7 15 b3 ± Pachman-Bellon, Haifa Ol 1976.



8 ... ♜fd7

9 ♜ge2

At Hastings 1985-6, Formanek-Plaskett continued 9 a4 0-0 10 ♜f3 ♙xa6 11 ♙g5 f5 12 0-0 h6 13 ♙d2 ♜e5 14 ♜xe5 de 15 ef gf 16 ♜h5 ±.

9 ... 0-0

10 0-0 ♜xa6!?

11 a4 ♜c7

12 ♙g5

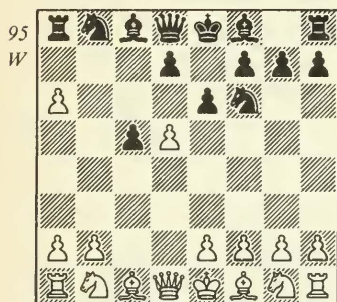
White stands more actively, although after 12 ... ♜e5 the weakness of White's c4 and d3 squares allows Black to count on some



counterplay – Hertness-Plaskett, Lucerne 1985.

B

5 ... e6 (95)



Black is not sufficiently well developed to commence active operations in the centre and White has every prospect of maintaining his position there, and in particular the point d5.

6 ♖c3!?

After 6 de fe 7 e3 ♙e7 (premature is 7 ... d5 in view of 8 ♙b5+) 8 ♖c3 0-0 9 ♜f3 d5 followed by 10 ♙e2 ♜xa6 11 0-0 ♙b7 Black has a comfortable game.

6 ... ♜xd5

7 ♜xd5 ed

8 ♙xd5

In Rukavina-Ungureanu, Bucharest 1973, White obtained a secure initiative after 8 g3 ♜xa6?! 9 ♙g2! d4 10 ♜f3 ♙e7 11 0-0-0 12 b4! cb 13 ♙b2, although 8 ... ♜c6 9 ♙g2 d4 threatening 10 ... ♙xa6 was better.

8 ... ♜c6

9 e3

After 9 ♜f3?! ♙xa6! 10 ♜e5 ♜xe5 11 ♙xe5+, Korintos-Benya, France 1972, the best continuation was 11 ... ♙e7.

Interesting is 9 e4!? as in the game Razuvaev-Pytel, Zabrze 1977, which continued 9 ... ♙e7 10 ♙c4 0-0 11 ♜e2 ♙xa6 12 ♙xa6 ♙a5+!? 13 ♙d2 ♙xa6 14 0-0 ♙f6, and Black achieved equality.

9 ... ♙e7

10 ♙c4

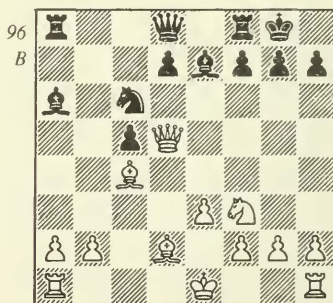
Or 10 ♙d2 0-0 11 ♙c3 ♙b6 12 ♜d1 d6! 13 ♙d3 ♙e6! 14 ♙h5 h6 15 a3 ♜e5 with a sharp game, Knaak-Pytel, Zabrze 1977.

10 ... 0-0

11 ♜f3 ♙xa6

12 ♙d2! (96)

Poor is 12 ♙xa6 in view of the standard manoeuvre 12 ... ♙a5+ 13 ♙d2 ♙xa6. The game Sikiarz-Glogowski, Poland 1976, went on 14 ♙c3 ♜b4! 15 ♙xb4 cb 16 ♜e5 b3! with initiative to Black.



12 ... ♖b6

13 0-0

On 13 ♕c3 unpleasant is 13 ... ♘b4!.

13 ... ♖xb2

14 ♕xa6 ♖xa6

15 a4

White maintains control over the centre, which ensures him the better chances, Pytel-Chipureanu, Lublin 1972.

C

5 ... ♕xa6

Here White has two options:

C1 6 g3

C2 6 ♘c3

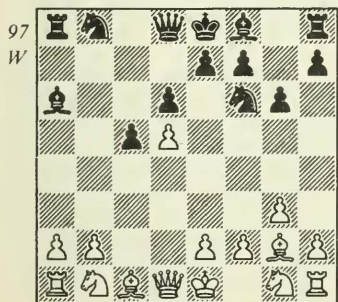
C1

6 g3 g6

7 ♕g2

On 7 ♘c3 the most exact is 7 ... ♕g7, not fearing 8 d6 ♕b7! 9 ♘f3 0-0 10 ♕g2 ♖a6 11 ♕f4 ♖e8 12 0-0 ed 13 ♕xd6 ♖b6 with a sharp game, Kejbekis-Zenfuss, Südwestfalen 1980.

7 ... d6 (97)



Here the choice lies between:

C11 8 h4

C12 8 b3

C11

8 h4

A transposition can occur after 8 ♘h3 ♕g7 9 ♘f4 ♘bd7 10 h4.

8 ... ♕g7

9 ♘h3 ♘bd7

10 ♘f4

White has prepared 11 h5. The absence of the knight from c3 means that the manoeuvre ♕d2-c3 is possible.

10 ... ♖b6

Directed against this manoeuvre. Other tries are possible:

a) 10 ... h5 11 ♕d2 0-0 12 ♕c3 ♖b6 13 0-0 ♖fb8 14 ♘d2 ♖a7 15 ♖c2 ♘e5 16 b3 ♘fg4 17 ♖ab1 and White had the preferable game in Azmaiparashvili-Gorrard, Zim-babwe 1985.

b) 10 ... 0-0 allows 11 h5 with an intensification of the struggle: 11 ... ♖c7 12 ♘c3 ♘b6 13 hg hg 14 ♖c2 ♘c4 15 ♕h3 ♕c8 16 ♘e4 ♘xe4 17 ♖xe4 ♖a5+ 18 ♖f1, Mäki-Salonen, Finnish Ch 1980. Or 11 ... ♘e5 12 hg hg 13 ♘c3 ♖a5 14 ♖c2 ♖fb8 15 0-0 ♘c4 16 ♖b1 ♘d7 17 ♕d2, Dannet-Biriescu, Vienna 1986.

11 ♖c2

Skembris-Bukal, Rome 1985, went 11 ♘c3 ♘g4!? 12 h5 c4 13 0-0 ♖b8 14 ♖a4 ♕b5 15 ♖c2 ♘de5

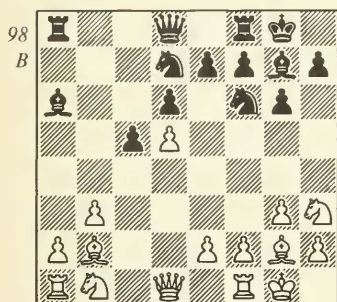
16 a4 ♖d7 17 a5 ♜c7 with a complicated game.

11	...	0-0
12	♗c3	♜fb8
13	♜b1	♗g4
14	0-0	

The game Zaichik-Vasyukov, Tel Aviv 1982, continued 14 ... ♖d4 15 ♗e4 c4?! 16 e3 ♖g7 17 ♖d2 with advantage to White. More exact was 15 ... ♖b5 16 b3 ♜c8 preparing ... c4 with equal chances.

## C12

8	b3	♖g7
9	♖b2	0-0
10	♗h3	♗bd7
11	0-0 (98)	



White has achieved a comfortable development. The knight on h3 will come to f4 to strengthen the centre, while the b1 knight will move to c4. However, there are weaknesses in White's position which allow Black to develop an initiative.

## 11 ... ♜a7?!

Intending 12 ... ♜a8 with an attack on a2 and, after ... ♖b7, the d5 pawn. Other possibilities:

a) 11 ... ♗b6?! 12 ♗c3 ♜d7 13 ♜c2 ♜ab8 14 ♜fd1 ± Garcia-Bellon, Las Palmas 1974.

b) 11 ... ♜b8 12 ♖c3 (averting 12 ... c4 which is met by 13 b4! ±) 12 ... ♗b6 13 a4 (if 13 ♜e1 then 13 ... c4! 14 e4 ♖b5! 干) 13 ... ♗bd7 14 ♗bd2 ♗g4 15 ♖xg7 ♗xg7 16 ♜e1 ♜b4 17 ♜c2 ♜fb8 18 ♗f4 ♗e5 with a sharp and unclear game in Zagorskaya-Chiburdanidze, Moscow 1983.

c) 11 ... ♜b6 12 ♖c3 ♜fb8 13 ♜e1 ♗e8 (13 ... ♗g4 14 ♖xg7 ♗xg7 15 ♗d2 c4!? 16 bc ♗ge5 17 ♜c1 ♜c8 18 ♗f4 and it is unclear whether Black has compensation for the two pawns, Gheorghiu-Jacobs, London 1980) 14 ♖xg7 ♗xg7 15 ♗d2 ♗e5 16 ♗g5! ♗f6 17 ♗gf3 ♗fd7 18 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 19 a3 ± Gheorghiu-Pavlović, Lugano 1983.

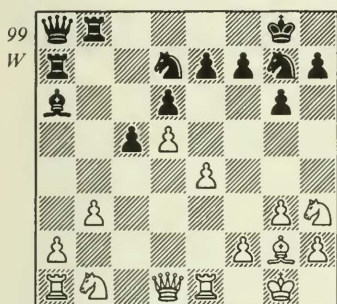
d) 11 ... ♜b8?! 12 ♖c3 ♗e5 13 ♜e1 c4?! 14 b4! ♗fg4 15 a4! e6 16 ♜d2 ± Vilela-Knaak, Leipzig 1980.

## 12 ♜e1

After 12 ♜d2 ♜a8 13 ♖c3 ♜b8 14 ♜c1 ♖c8 15 e4, Möhring-Knaak, E German Ch 1977, Black gains sufficient counterplay with 15 ... c4! 16 bc (weaker is 16 b4 in view of 16 ... ♗e5! 17 ♖xe5 de 18 ♜xc4 ♗e8 and then 19 ... ♗d6 =) 16 ... ♗c5.

Gheorghiu's recommendation 12  $\text{Qf4}$  is refuted by 12 ...  $\text{Qxd5!}$  13  $\text{Qxg7 Qxf4}$  14  $\text{Qxf8 Qxe2+}$  15  $\text{Qh1 Qxf8}$  16  $\text{Qe1 Qd4}$  17  $\text{Qc3 Qe5}$  and Black gets a promising game for the exchange, Titenko-Kaidanov, Podolsk 1982.

- 12 ...  $\text{Qa8}$   
 13  $\text{e4}$   $\text{Qb8}$   
 14  $\text{Qc3}$   $\text{Qe8!?$   
 15  $\text{Qxg7}$   $\text{Qxg7 (99)}$



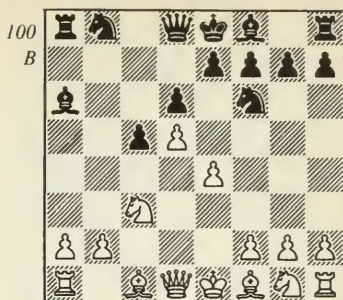
The active position of Black's pieces compensates him for the pawn, e.g. 16  $\text{Qd2 Qe5}$  17  $\text{Qf4 Qb5!}$  18  $\text{a4 Qa6}$  19  $\text{Qf3 Qxf3+}$  20  $\text{Qxf3 Qb4}$ , Gheorghiu-Belyavsky, Moscow IZ 1982.

- C2  
 6  $\text{Qc3}$   $\text{d6}$

White has the choice between:

- C21 7  $\text{e4}$   
 C22 7  $\text{f4}$

- C21  
 7  $\text{e4 (100)}$



- 7 ...  $\text{Qxf1}$   
 8  $\text{Qxf1}$   $\text{g6}$   
 9  $\text{Qge2}$

The sharp continuation 9  $\text{g4}$  has not proved its value: 9 ...  $\text{Qg7}$  (interesting is 9 ...  $\text{h5}$  10  $\text{g5 Qfd7}$  11  $\text{Qg2 Qg7}$  12  $\text{f4 Qa6}$  13  $\text{Qf3 0-0}$  14  $\text{Qe2}$  with sharp play, Sakovich-Lanka, Riga Teams Ch 1980) 10  $\text{g5 Qh5}$  11  $\text{Qge2 Qc8}$  12  $\text{Qg2 Qg4+}$  13  $\text{Qg3 Qf4+}$  14  $\text{Qxf4 Qxf4}$  15  $\text{h4 0-0}$  16  $\text{Qh3 Qxc3!}$  (weaker is 16 ...  $\text{Qa6}$  in view of 17  $\text{Qge2 Qg4+}$  18  $\text{Qg3 Qd7}$  19  $\text{h5}$  and White had a dangerous attack in Knaak-Pokojowczyk, Polanica Zdroj 1979) 17  $\text{bc f6!}$  18  $\text{Qe2 fg}$  19  $\text{hg Qd7}$  干 Baumbach-Despotović, corres 1981.

- 9 ...  $\text{Qg7}$   
 10  $\text{g3}$

Preparing the transfer of the king to  $\text{g2}$ . The attack on the king-side with 10  $\text{Qf4 0-0}$  11  $\text{g4?! Qa6}$  12  $\text{h4}$  appears to be more dangerous for White: 12 ...  $\text{Qa5}$  13  $\text{h5 Qfb8}$  14  $\text{hg hg}$  15  $\text{g5 Qd7}$  16  $\text{Qg4 Qe5}$



17 ♖h3 ♜b4 干 Formanek-Browne, USA (Atlantic Open) 1970.

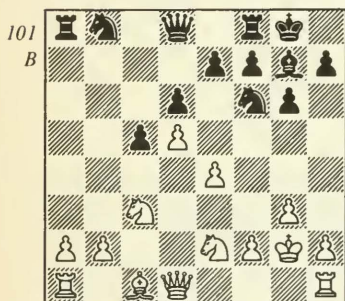
Also possible is 10 h3 0-0 11 ♘g1 with the aim of transferring the king to h2:

a) 11 ... ♜bd7 12 ♘h2 ♖a5 13 ♖c2 ♜fb8 14 ♜b1 ♜e8 15 ♜f1 ♜c7 16 f4 ♜a6 17 a3 ♖b6 with a complicated game.

b) Enklaar-Ree, Holland 1972, saw 11 ... ♖b6 12 ♜b1 ♜a6 13 ♙e3 ♜fb8 14 ♘h2 ♜d7 15 ♖d2 ±.

10 ... 0-0

11 ♘g2 (101)



The position of the white knight on e2 (instead of f3 as in the main system) prevents White from carrying out the important strategic plan of e5. In consequence Black is able comfortably to arrange his pieces on the queenside.

11 ... ♜bd7

Gross-Benko, USA 1968, went 11 ... ♖b6 12 ♜b1 ♜a6 13 b3 ♜c7 14 f3 e6 15 de fe 16 ♙e3 ♖c6 with counterplay for Black.

12 ♜b1

White plans to neutralise Black's pressure along the a1-h8 diagonal with 13 b3. Another idea is 12 ♜f4?! ♖a5 13 h4 h5 14 ♖c2 ♜fb8 15 ♙d2 ♖a6 16 b3 c4! with the initiative to Black in Boichenko-Egin, Tbilisi 1985.

12 ... ♖a5

The alternative 12 ... ♖b6 is possible: 13 ♙f4 ♜g4 14 h3 ♜ge5 15 b3 ♖a6 16 ♖d2 ♖d3 17 ♖xd3 ♜xd3 with a fully equal game for Black, Debredo-Palatnik, Hradec Kralove 1981.

13 b3

On 13 ♖c2 Black could play 13 ... ♜fb8 14 h3 ♜e5 15 b3 ♖a6.

13 ... ♜fb8

Minogina-Arakhamiya, Chernigov Z 1985, went 13 ... ♜fc8?! 14 ♖c2 ♜ab8 15 a3 ♖a7 16 h3 h6 17 ♜f1 with better prospects for White.

14 ♖c2 ♜e8

Intending the manoeuvre ... ♜c7-b5 or a6. Black has enough activity for the pawn.

C22

7 f4

White's idea in this variation comes to light in his next few moves.

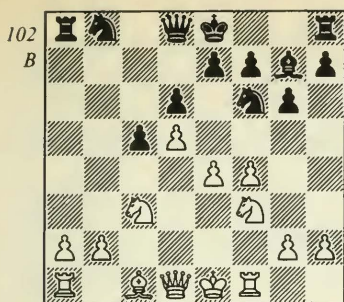
7 ... g6

8 ♜f3 ♙g7

9 e4 ♙xf1

10 ♜xf1 (102)





White has achieved an active position in the centre and plans the transfer of his king to g1.

10 ... 0-0

10 ... ♖b6 suggests itself, to prevent the possibility 11 ♔f2. Masja-Dronov, Moscow 1978, continued 11 ♘d2 0-0 12 ♘c4 ♖b4 13 ♖e2, when Black could have intensified the game with 13 ... ♘fd7. The appraisal of 10 ... ♖b6 depends on the variation 11 e5 de 12 fe ♘g4 13 ♖e2 ♖a6! 14 ♙f4 ♘d7 15 e6 ♖xe2+ 16 ♔xe2 fe 17 de ♘f8 18 h3!, Gurevich-Bukal, Lugano 1983.

11 ♔f2

The variation 11 e5 de 12 fe ♘g4 13 ♙f4 ♘bd7 14 ♖e2 ♖b8 15 0-0-0 ♖b4! 16 g3 ♖fb8 17 ♖d2 ♘b6 gives Black a dangerous initiative, Murei-Gurevich, Hastings 1982-3.

11 ... ♘bd7

Possible was 11 ... ♖b6 12 ♔g1 ♘a6 when 13 e5! ♘d7 14 ♖e1! (weaker is 14 ♖e2 because of 14 ... ♘c7 15 ♔h1 ♖a6! 16 ♖f2 ♘b6 with the initiative to Black in

Murei-Platonov, Daugavpils 1974) with initiative to White.

12 ♔g1 ♖b6

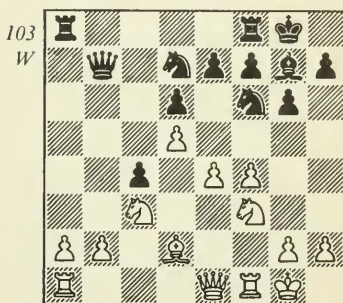
Goodman-Benko, Lone Pine 1977, went 12 ... ♘b6 13 ♖e2 ♘a4! 14 ♖d1 ♘xc3 15 bc ♖a4 16 e5 ♘e4 17 ♙b2 f5 with a complicated game.

Interesting is 13 f5 gf!? 14 ♘h4!? e6 15 de fe 16 ed ♘fd5 17 ♘xd5 ♘xd5 18 ♖g4 ♖f6 with a sharp and unclear game, Hollis-Norton, corres 1977. In Pelts-Platonov, USSR 1974, the continuation was 13 ♔h1 ♖d7 14 ♖c2 ♖fb8 15 ♖b1 ♘a4!? 16 ♘d1 e6 with equality.

13 ♖e1!? ♖b7!?

The complications after 13 ... c4 14 ♙e3 ♖xb2 15 e5! are dangerous for Black, e.g. 15 ... ♘g4?! (better was 15 ... ♘e8 16 ♙d4 ♖a3 with an unclear position in Bukić-Sofrevski, Yugoslavia 1975) 16 ♙d4 de 17 fe ♖b8 18 ♖b1! ♖c8 19 h3 ± Chigureanu-Stanciu, Romania 1971.

14 ♙d2 c4!? (103)



White gets a dangerous initiative after 14 ... ♖xb2 15 ♜b1 ♖a3 16 e5.

Black has prevented the advance 15 e5?!, after which would follow

15 ... de 16 fe ♜xd5 17 e6 ♖b6+ 18 ♔h1 ♖xe6 with advantage to Black in Lombardy-Benko, Costa Brava 1975. Black now intends 15 ... ♜c5 with the initiative.

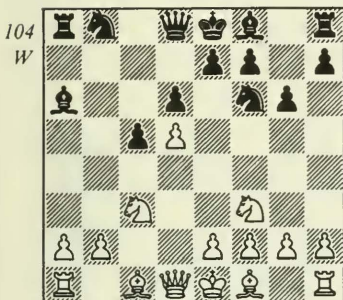
**Part Three**

**Classical System**

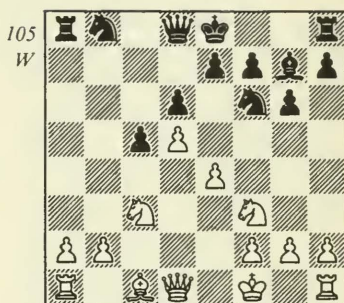


# 11 Classical: 8 e4

- |   |     |          |
|---|-----|----------|
| 1 | d4  | ♘f6      |
| 2 | c4  | c5       |
| 3 | d5  | b5       |
| 4 | cb  | a6       |
| 5 | ba  | ♙xa6     |
| 6 | ♘c3 | d6       |
| 7 | ♘f3 | g6 (104) |



- |   |      |           |
|---|------|-----------|
| 9 | ♙xf1 | ♙g7 (105) |
|---|------|-----------|



White has two ways to continue his kingside development:

- A 10 g3  
B 10 h3

A point of departure for the Classical System of the Benko. White can choose between:

- 8 e4, the subject of this chapter;  
8 g3, dealt with in Chapter 12;  
8 ♘d2, covered in Chapter 13.

- |   |    |      |
|---|----|------|
| 8 | e4 | ♙xf1 |
|---|----|------|

A

- |    |     |      |
|----|-----|------|
| 10 | g3  | 0-0  |
| 11 | ♙g2 | ♘bd7 |

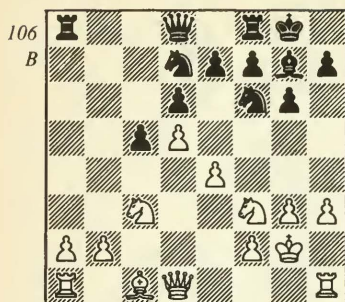
Here the possibilities are:

- A1 12 h3  
A2 12 ♞e1  
A3 12 ♞e2  
A4 12 ♞c2



A1

12 h3 (106)



White prevents the possible manoeuvre ...  $\text{d}g4\text{-e}5$  which would threaten an incursion by the black knight at d3. Black has several plans at his disposal:

A11 12 ...  $\text{W}a5$ A12 12 ...  $\text{W}b6$ A13 12 ...  $\text{d}b6$ 

A11

12 ...  $\text{W}a5$ 13  $\text{Ee}1$   $\text{Efb}8$ 

13 ...  $\text{d}b6?$  allows 14 e5!. Knaak-Vaganian, Moscow 1982, continued 14 ...  $\text{d}fd7$  15  $\text{g}5$   $\text{Efe}8$  16 e6! de 17 fe  $\text{d}f6$  18  $\text{Ee}2$   $\text{W}a6$  19  $\text{g}xf6$   $\text{g}xf6$  20  $\text{d}e4$  with initiative to White.

14  $\text{Ee}2$ 

The standard plan. White intends 15  $\text{g}5$  and 16  $\text{E}c1$ , completing the development of his queenside. Other possibilities:

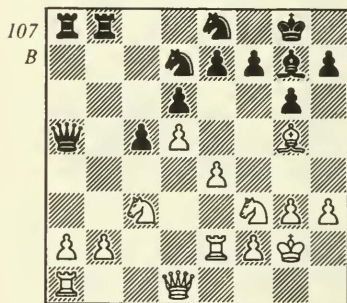
a) 14 e5!? de 15  $\text{d}xe5$   $\text{d}xe5$  16  $\text{E}xe5$   $\text{Ea}7$ !? (16 ...  $\text{W}d8$  17  $\text{Ee}2$

$\text{E}b7$  18  $\text{g}e3 \pm \frac{1}{2}\text{-}\frac{1}{2}$  Grigorian-Vaganian, Baku 1977) 17  $\text{W}e2$   $\text{W}d8$  18  $\text{g}f4$   $\text{Eab}7$  19 b3  $\text{d}h5$  20  $\text{E}xh5$   $\text{g}xc3$  21  $\text{E}c1$  gh 22  $\text{g}xb8$   $\text{W}xd5$  = Hass-Grünfeld, Beersheva 1985.

b) 14  $\text{W}c2$   $\text{d}b6$  (also possible is 14 ...  $\text{d}e8$  and then if 15  $\text{g}5$ ?!  $\text{E}xb2$ ! 16  $\text{W}xb2$   $\text{g}xc3$ ; however, after 15  $\text{d}d1$ ! followed by 16  $\text{g}d2$  and 17  $\text{g}c3$  White has good prospects) 15  $\text{d}d1$  c4!? 16  $\text{g}d2$   $\text{W}a4$  17  $\text{W}c1$   $\text{d}bd7$ ? with equality for Black in Uhlmann-Espig, Dresden 1985.

14 ...  $\text{d}e8$ 

Deserving attention is 14 ...  $\text{E}b7$ !? 15  $\text{g}5$   $\text{Eab}8$ , disrupting White's plans. Knaak-Tseshkovsky, Leipzig 1975, went 16  $\text{W}c1$ ?!  $\text{W}a6$  17  $\text{E}b1$   $\text{d}b6$  18  $\text{W}e1$   $\text{d}fd7$  19  $\text{E}c2$  h6 20  $\text{g}c1$  c4! with an active game for Black. Better was 16  $\text{E}b1$ .

15  $\text{g}5$  (107)

15 ... h6!?

15 ...  $\text{E}xb2$  16  $\text{E}xb2$   $\text{g}xc3$  is a mistake because of 17  $\text{g}d2$ !  $\pm$ , as is 15 ...  $\text{g}xc3$  16 bc  $\text{W}xc3$  because

of 17 ♖c1! ±.

After 15 ... ♗e5 16 ♗xe5 ♖xe5 17 ♖c1 ♖a7 18 ♖d3 White completed his development and got the better game in Knaak-Bellon, Pula 1975.

16 ♖xe7!?

16 ♖f4 ♗c7 (16 ... g5?! 17 ♖c1 ♗c7 18 h4! g4 19 ♗h2 ♗e5 20 ♖c2 ± Malich-Ciocaltea, Skopje Ol 1972) 17 ♖c1 ♗a6 leads to a complicated game.

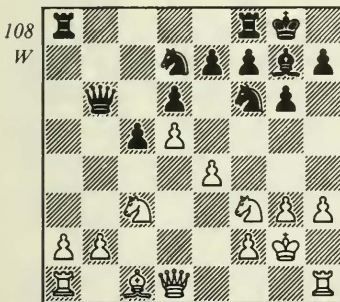
16 ... f6  
17 ♖c2 ♗f7  
18 e5!?

And now:

- a) 18 ... ♗xe7? 19 ef+ ♗xf6 20 ♖e6+ ♗f7 21 ♖xg6+.
- b) 18...dc 19 d6.
- c) 18...fe 19 ♗h4!? allows White to develop an initiative.
- d) 18 ... ♗xe5 (best) 19 ♗xe5 fe with a complicated game.

A12

12 ... ♖b6 (108)



108  
W

The aim of this move is to hinder

the development of the bishop on c1.

13 ♖e1 ♗e8

The continuation 13 ... ♖b7 and 14 ... ♗b6 will be examined in A13.

Illogical is 13 ... ♖ab8 as after 14 ♖e2 ♗e8 15 ♖f4 ♖a6 16 ♖c1 White gets the better position, e.g. 16 ... ♗c7 17 e5!? de 18 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 19 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 20 ♖xe5 with initiative to White. The immediate 14 e5!? de 15 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 16 ♖xe5 ♖b7 17 ♖f3 ♖d8 18 ♖g5 also gives White the initiative.

14 ♖e2

Others:

- a) 14 a4 ♗c7 15 ♖a3 ♖fb8 16 ♖e2 ♖b4?! 17 ♗e1 ♖b7 18 ♗c2 ♗e5 19 ♗e3 ♖a6 20 b3 ± Naumkin-Kishnev, Moscow 1985. Better was 16 ... ♖a6 and then 17... ♖b4.
- b) 14 ♖c2 ♗c7 15 ♖b1 ♖fb8 16 ♖g5 h6! 17 ♖d2 ♗a6 18 a3 c4 19 ♖e3 ♗ac5 with an equal game for Black, Gurevich-Alburt, Hastings 1983-4.

14 ... ♗c7  
15 ♖g5

Hort-Müller, Hamburg 1980, went 15 ♖f4 ♖fb8 16 ♖c1 ♗b5 17 ♗xb5 ♖xb5 18 b3 ♖a3 19 ♖cc2! with advantage to White. 15 ... ♗b5 would have led to sharper play.

15 ... h6!?

After 15 ... ♖fe8 16 ♖c1 h6 17 ♖f4 ♗b5 18 ♗xb5 ♖xb5 19 b3!

♖a3 20 ♜cc2 ♜ea8 21 e5! White obtained a considerable advantage in Didishko-Kurbanov, Volgograd 1985.

16 ♙e3

16 ♙xe7? is poor because of 16 ... ♜fe8 17 ♙h4, when the white bishop is out of the action.

16 ... ♜b5!?

17 ♜c1

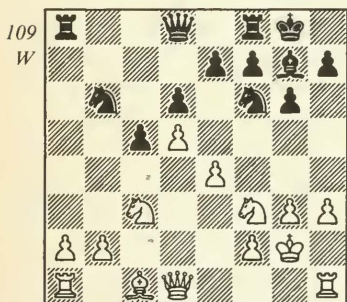
Poor is 17 ♜xb5 ♞xb5 and White has difficulty in defending his queenside pawns.

17 ... ♜d4!?

Black has equalised. The games Serebenko-Gorelov, USSR 1985, and Gavrilov-Gorelov, USSR 1984, both continued 18 ♙xd4 cd 19 ♜a4 ♞b5 20 b3 f5 with chances for both sides.

A13

12 ... ♜b6 (109)



13 ♜e1

The other continuation is 13 ♞c2 ♞b8 14 ♜b1 ♞b7 (on 14 ... ♜fd7 F.Portisch-Arkhipov, Hungary 1983, went 15 h4!? ♜c4 16 h5 ♜de5 17 hg fg 18 ♜g5 ♜g4!? with a sharp game) 15 ♜d1 ♜fd7 16 b3 ♜e5 17 ♜xe5 ♙xe5 18 ♙h6 ♜fc8 and Black has sufficient counter-chances in view of the threatened 19 ... c4, Knaak-F.Portisch, Bratislava 1983.

13 ... ♞d7

14 ♜e2

14 e5? de 15 ♜xe5 would be a mistake because of 15 ... ♞b7 16 ♞b3 e6, but possible is 14 ♞c2 ♞b7 15 ♙g5 h6 16 ♙xf6 ♙xf6 17 ♞b3?! ♜fb8 18 e5 de 19 ♜xe5 e6 20 ♜ad1 ed!. At this point a draw was agreed in the game Gligorić-Benko, Lone Pine 1975, in view of the variation 21 ♜xd5 ♜xd5 22 ♞xd5 ♞xd5 23 ♜xd5 ♜xb2 24 ♜xc5 ♜axa2 25 ♜d3 =. However, White had the earlier improvement 17 ♜ad1 ±.

14 ... ♞b7

15 ♙g5 h6

16 ♙xf6 ♙xf6

17 ♞c2 ♜d7

17 ... ♞a6?! allows 18 e5! de 19 ♜xe5, after which the game Salov-Andrianov, USSR 1984, continued 19 ... ♞b7 20 ♙h2 ♜xd5 21 ♞e4 ♜fd8 22 ♜d1 e6 23 ♜xg6! with advantage to White.

18 ♜d1 ♞b4

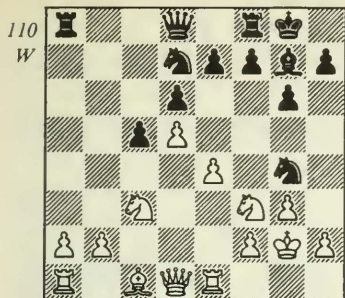
19 a3 ♞c4

Black has sufficient counter-chances, Naumkin-Salov, Yaroslavl 1983.



A2

12 ♖e1 ♗g4!? (110)



This is the most consistent reply.

Others:

a) 12 ... ♗a5 and now:

a1) 13 ♗d2 ♗g4!? 14 ♖c2 ♖fb8 15 ♗d1 ♖b5 16 ♗c3 ♗de5 17 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 18 ♖e2 c4! and Black has obtained equality, Makagonov-Korsunsky, Baku 1975.

a2) 13 ♖e2!? ♖fb8 14 ♖c2 ♖b7 15 ♖e2 ♗e8 16 ♗d2 ♗c7 17 ♖e1 ♖a6 18 ♗c1 with a complicated game that should be in White's favour, Hort-Fedorowicz, Hastings 1977-8.

b) 12 ... ♖c7 13 ♖e2 ♖b7 14 a4!? ♖fb8 15 ♖a3 ♗e8 16 ♗b5 ♗c7 17 ♗xc7 ♖xc7 18 b3 ♖b7 19 ♖c2 ♖a5 20 ♗d2 ♖a6 21 ♗c3 with the superior prospects for White in Cherepkov-Ermolinsky, Leningrad 1984.

13 ♖e2

a) It would be a mistake to play 13 h3 ♗ge5 14 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 15 f4!? ♗d7 16 ♖e2 because of 16 ... c4!

17 ♗d1?! ♗c5 18 ♖xc4 ♖a4 19 ♖c2 ♖a8, when Black has a strong initiative for his two sacrificed pawns, Vetemaa-Gutman, Haapsalu 1978.

b) 13 ♖e2 together with the plan ♗d2-c4 is interesting. Kolyakov-Kishnev, Kiev 1983, went 13 ... ♖a5 14 ♗d2 ♗xc3 15 bc ♖xc3 16 ♖b1 ♗ge5 17 ♖b3 ♖c2 18 f4 c4 19 ♖b2 ♖d3! and Black maintained his chances in a sharp position. However, the zwischenzug 15 ♗c4! would have given White an advantage, so more exact for Black was

13 ... ♗ge5, and if 14 ♗d2 then 14 ... ♗b6 15 f4 ♗ed7 16 ♗f3 ♗a4! with good prospects, Hort-Ermenkov, Tunis IZ 1985.

c) 13 ♖c2 ♗b6 14 h3 ♗ge5 15 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 16 ♗g5 ♖fe8 17 ♖e2 ♖c7 18 ♗f4 ♗c4 19 ♖c1 ♖eb8 with sufficient counterplay for Black in Angelova-Chiburdanidze, Tbilisi 1984.

13 ... ♖a5

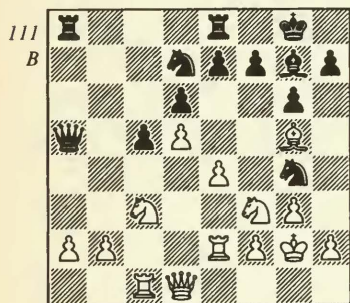
Holm-Pytel, Polanica Zdroj 1972, went 13 ... ♖c7?! 14 ♖c2 ♖fb8 15 h3 ♗ge5 16 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 17 ♖e2 ♖b7 18 f4 ♗d7 19 ♗d2 ♖a6 20 ♖f3 ±.

14 ♗g5 ♖fe8

In Gavrikov-Meshkov, USSR 1981, Black tried the plan 14 ... ♗xc3 15 bc f6, and after 16 ♗d2 ♖a4 17 ♗f4 g5 18 h3 ♗h6 19 ♗e3 ♗f7 he had obtained a promising game.

**15 ♖c1 (111)**

Weaker is 15 ♖c2, after which 15 ... h6 16 ♕d2 ♖a6 17 ♖d1 ♖eb8 18 ♕c1 ♖b7 19 h3 ♗ge5 20 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 21 f4 ♗d7 gave Black a clear initiative in Popov-Vasyukov, Varna 1971.

**15 ... ♗b6**

The critical position of the variation. Others:

a) 15 ... ♖a7?! 16 ♖cc2 ♗b6 17 h3 ♗e5 18 ♗xe5 ♕xe5 19 ♖d3 ♖b4 20 ♕d2 ♖b7 21 b3 ± Bagirov-Zilberman, USSR 1972. White has stabilised his position on the queenside.

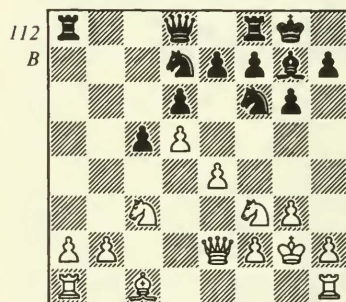
b) 15 ... ♖a6 16 b3! ♗ge5 17 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 18 ♗a4 ♖ab8 19 ♕d2 c4!? 20 ♖e3 e6!? with a sharp game in Gavrikov-Tseshkovsky, USSR 1979.

16 h3 ♗e5  
17 ♗xe5 ♕xe5  
18 ♖d3 ♖b4  
19 a3

The game Spassky-Vaganian, Linares 1985, continued 19 ... ♖a5

20 ♗d1 c4?! 21 ♖d2 ♖a6 22 ♗e3 ♕g7 23 ♗g4 and White's threats on the kingside assured him of a superiority. Sharper is 19 ... ♖b3!?, when after 20 ♖b5 ♖xb5 21 ♗xb5 ♖a5! 22 ♗c3 ♗a4! Black has enough compensation for the pawn.

A3

**12 ♖e2 (112)**

White tries to establish control over the light squares.

**12 ... ♖b6**

The queen is heading for a6 and at the same time impeding the development of the bishop on c1. Other possibilities:

a) 12 ... ♖a5 13 ♕d2 ♖fb8 14 ♖ab1 ♗e8 15 ♖hd1 ♗c7 16 a4 ♖a6 17 b3 ♖xe2 18 ♗xe2 ♖b7 ½-½ Pergericht-Delaney, Berlin 1980.

b) 12 ... ♗b6 13 a4 ♖c8 14 ♖a3 ♖a6 15 ♖xa6 ♖xa6 16 ♗d2 ♗g4 17 ♗d1 ♗d7 18 a5 e6 19 h3 ♗gf6 with a lively game, Garcia-Borik, Bochum 1981.

13 ♖d1 ♖a6



After 13 ... ♖fb8 White seized the initiative in Hort-Gaprindashvili, Wijk aan Zee 1979, with 14 ♖b1 ♗e8 15 ♗f4 ♗c7 16 e5 ♖e8 17 b3 ♗b7 18 ♖bc1.

14 ♗xa6

14 ♗c2 proved weaker in the game Gerusel-Georgadze, Dortmund 1979: 14 ... ♗g4! 15 h3 ♗ge5 16 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 17 ♗f4 ♗c4 18 ♖ac1 ♖fb8 with initiative to Black.

14 ... ♖xa6

15 ♗d2 ♖b8

The exchange of queens slows down the development of Black's initiative on the queenside, but Black's counterplay is adequate.

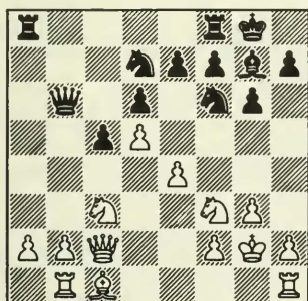
A4

12 ♗c2 ♗b6

13 ♖b1 (113)

After 13 ♖e1 a position arises from Angelova-Chiburdanidze in A2.

113  
B



13 ... ♗g4

14 h3 ♗ge5

15 ♗xe5 ♗xe5

16 b3 ♗a6

Black prepares ... c4. Donner-Benko, Palma de Mallorca 1971, continued along similar lines: 16 ... ♖fc8 17 ♗d2 c4 18 ♖hc1 cb 19 ab ♗b4 20 ♗d1 ♖xc2 21 ♗xb4 =.

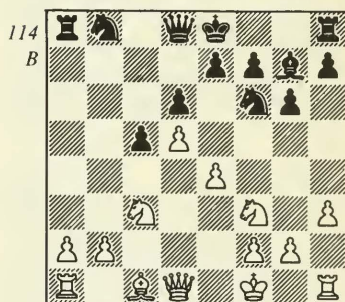
17 a4 ♖fc8

18 ♗e3 ♗d3

After 19 ♗xd3 ♗xd3 20 ♗b5 White had a small advantage in the game Kremenetsky-Gorelov, Moscow 1980.

B

10 h3 (114)



The idea of this move is to transfer the king to h2. However, h2 turns out to be a poor posting for the king and the whole manoeuvre involves a considerable loss of time.

10 ... 0-0

11 ♗g1 ♗bd7

Less successful was 11 ... ♗a6

12 ♖h2 ♙b6 13 ♜e1 ♜d7 14 ♜e2! ♜c7 15 ♙g5 ♜fe8 16 ♜c1 ♜b5 17 ♜xb5 ♙xb5 18 b3 with advantage to White, Bizhmanavin-Zlochevsky, USSR 1981.

12 ♖h2 ♙a5

13 ♜e1 ♜fb8

14 ♜e2!?

White defends b2 in such a way as to be able to develop the bishop on g5 and the queen's rook on c1. The other possibility is 14 ♙c2, and then:

a) 14 ... ♜b6?! 15 ♜d1 ♙a6 16 ♙d2 ♙c4 17 ♜c3 ♜fd7 18 b3 ♙a6 19 a4 ± Gligorić-Browne, Skopje 1970.

b) Sharper is 14 ... ♜e8 and then 15 ♙d2 ♙a6 16 a4 ♜b4 17 a5 ♜ab8 18 ♜d1 ♜4b7 19 ♜b1 ♜c7 with ... ♜b5 to come and enough counterplay for Black, Pytel-Peyev, Lublin 1972.

14 ... ♜b4! (115)

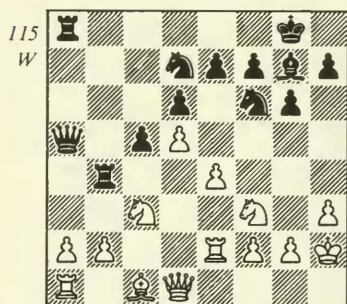
With the aim of preventing White from regrouping with 15 ♜c2 and 16 ♙e2. Other moves:

a) 14 ... ♜e8 15 ♜c2 ♜c7 16 ♙d2 ♜b5 17 a4 ♜xc3 18 ♙xc3 ♙xc3 19 bc ♜e5 20 ♜xe5 de 21 ♙d3 ± Hort-Jimenez, Palma de Mallorca IZ 1970.

b) 14 ... ♜a7 15 ♜c2 ♜b6 16 ♙e2 ♜a4 17 ♙g5 ♜ab7, Kane-Browne, US Ch 1970, and now White gets the advantage after 18 ♜xa4 ♙xa4 19 ♙xf6! ♙xf6 20 b3.

c) Black can prevent the 15 ♜c2

manoeuvre by means of 14 ... ♙b4. The game Andrianov-Dokhoyan, USSR 1982, continued 15 ♖g1 ♜e8 16 ♙e1! ♜c7 17 ♙g5! ♜e8 18 ♜d1 ♜b5 19 ♜xb5 ♙xb5 20 b3 ♙c3 21 ♙f1 ±.



15 ♖g1 ♜e8

The knight is headed for b5.

16 ♜c2!?

After 16 a3?! ♜b7 17 ♜c2 ♜ab8 18 ♙e2 ♜e5 19 ♜xe5 ♙xe5 Black has sufficient counterplay thanks to the weakness at b3, Portisch-Vasyukov, Manila 1974.

16 ... ♙a6!?

Stopping the white queen from going to e2.

Taking the pawn is risky: 16 ... ♙xc3 17 bc ♜xe4 18 c4! and with 19 ♙b2 White has the better prospects.

Andrianov-Konstantinov, Moscow 1982, went 16 ... ♜ab8 17 ♙e2! ♜c7 18 ♙g5 ♙f6 (not 18 ... ♜xb2 19 ♜xb2 ♜xb2 20 ♙xb2 ♙xc3 in view of 21 ♙b7! ♙xa1 22 ♙xe7! ±)

19 ♖e1 ♜4b7 20 ♜xf6 ef21 b3 ±.

17 ♜d2 ♜b6

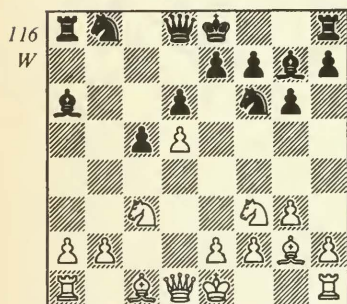
18 ♖b1 ♜c4

19 ♜e1 ♜b7

Black had the initiative and compensation for the pawn deficit in Andrianov-Vasyukov, Moscow 1982.

# 12 Classical: 8 g3

- |   |     |           |
|---|-----|-----------|
| 1 | d4  | ♘f6       |
| 2 | c4  | c5        |
| 3 | d5  | b5        |
| 4 | cb  | a6        |
| 5 | ba  | ♙xa6      |
| 6 | ♘c3 | d6        |
| 7 | ♘f3 | g6        |
| 8 | g3  | ♙g7 (116) |



Here White has a choice of two squares for the bishop:

- A 9 ♗g2  
B 9 ♗h3

A

- |    |     |      |
|----|-----|------|
| 9  | ♗g2 | ♘bd7 |
| 10 | 0-0 |      |

The options are now:

- A1 10 ... ♘b6  
A2 10 ... 0-0

A1

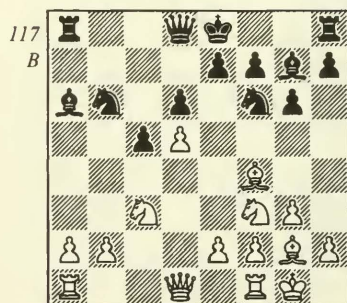
- 10 ... ♘b6

Directed against the development 11 ♖c2 and 12 ♜d1. Here the possibilities are:

- A11 11 ♗f4!?  
A12 11 ♘e1  
A13 11 ♜e1  
A14 11 ♜b1

A11

- 11 ♗f4!? (117)



11	...	h6
12	h4	♖d7
13	♙e1	♜g4
14	♖c2	♖f5
15	♖b3	♙b8
16	♖a3	♖c8
17	♙h3	f5
18	e4	0-0

The game is complex, Ehlvest-Vasyukov, Ivano-Frankovsk 1982.

#### A12

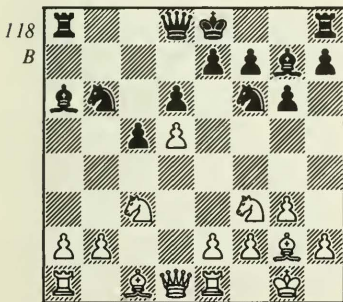
11	♜e1	0-0
12	♜c2	♖c7
13	b3	♙ae8!?
14	a4	e6
15	de	♙xe6

16 a5 ♜bd7 17 ♜e3 ♖b8 18 ♙d2 ♙fe8 with counterplay for Black in Kakageldiev-Ehlvest, Moscow 1983.

#### A13

11 ♙e1 (118)

The most logical continuation, preparing the advance of White's central pawns.



11	...	0-0
12	e4	

Other moves are quite reasonable:

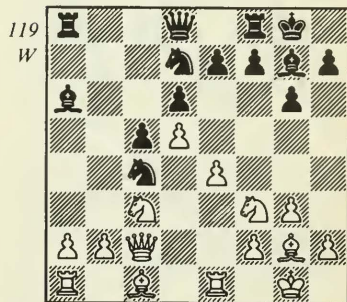
a) 12 ♙f4 ♜c4 13 ♖c1 intending 14 ♜d2. Nikolić-Grünfeld, Thessaloniki Ol 1984, continued 13 ... ♖a5 14 ♜d2 ♙fb8 15 ♜xc4 ♙xc4 16 ♙d2 ♜d7 17 b3 ♙a6 18 ♜a4 ♖d8 19 ♙c3 ♖f8 with a complex game and a small advantage to White.

b) 12 ♜d2, expecting 12 ... ♖c7 13 ♙b1 ♖b7 14 b4! with an active game on the queenside for White. Better is 12 ... ♙a7!? intending 13 ... ♖a8. Now:

b1) 13 ♜f1 ♖a8 14 ♜e3 ♜e8! (weaker is 14 ... ♙b8 15 ♙b1 ♜e8 16 ♙d2 ♙b7 17 b4! ± Tukmakov-Shereshevsky, Minsk 1979) 15 ♙d2 ♜c7 attacking b5 and giving Black sufficient counterplay.

b2) 13 h3 ♖a8 14 e4 ♜fd7 15 f4 ♙b8 16 ♖c2 ♜c4 17 ♜f3 ♖b7 ± Kakageldiev-Peshina, USSR 1979.

12	...	♜fd7
13	♖c2	♜c4! (119)





Weaker is 13 ... ♖c7 14 b3! and Black achieved nothing with 14 ... c4 15 ♙b2 ♜fc8 16 b4! ♜e5 (16 ... ♙b5 17 a4! ♚) 17 ♜xe5 ♙xe5 18 a4 ♚ Westerinen-Lundvol, Dieren 1970.

#### 14 ♙f4

If White plays 14 b3 Black has the very strong 14 ... ♖a5!, while on 14 ♜d1 Averkin-Miles, Dubna 1976, went 14 ... ♖a5 15 ♜d2? ♜a3! 16 ba ♖xc3 17 ♖xc3 ♙xc3 18 ♜b1 c4 ♚. More exact was 15 ♙f1 ♜fb8 with a complicated game.

#### 14 ... ♖a5

Threatening 15 ... ♜xb2.

#### 15 ♜ac1 ♜fb8

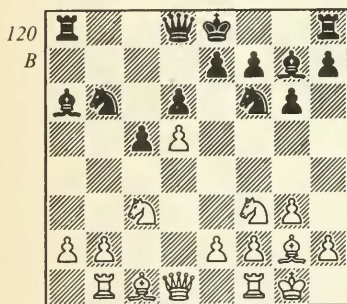
#### 16 b3 ♜a3

#### 17 ♖d2 c4!?

Black had fully equalised in the game Janošević-Despotović, Smederevska Palanka 1977.

#### A14

#### 11 ♜b1 (120)



White prepares 12 b3 with the

aim of preventing the incursion of Black's knight to c4.

#### 11 ... 0-0

Deserving of attention is 11 ... ♙c4!? 12 ♜d2 ♙xa2 13 ♜xa2 ♜xa2 14 b4. After 14 ... ♜bxd5 15 bc dc 16 ♖b3 ♜b4 17 ♙c6+ ♜xc6 18 ♖xa2 0-0 19 ♖c4 Black faced an uphill struggle for equality in Dzyuban-Gorelov, Barnaul 1984.

#### 12 b3 ♖c7

Pytel-Bielczyk, Poland 1985, went 12 ... ♜e8 13 ♙b2 ♜c7 but White repelled the threats against the d5 pawn with 14 ♜h4! ♖d7 15 ♖d2 ♜a7 16 ♜fel ♚.

Black achieves nothing by 12 ... ♙b7 13 e4 ♜fd7 14 ♖c2 ♚.

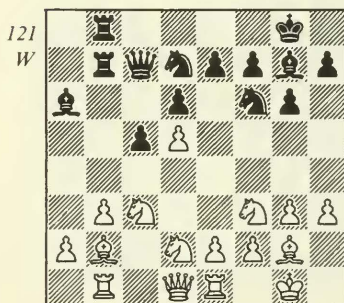
#### 13 h3 ♜fb8

On 13 ... e6 possible is 14 de fe 15 ♜g5 ♜ae8 16 ♙f4! e5 17 ♙e3 h6 18 ♜ge4 ♜d8 19 ♜xf6+ ♜xf6 20 ♜d5 ♚ Sosonko-Diaz, Biel IZ 1976.

#### 14 ♙b2 ♜a7

#### 15 ♜e1 ♜ab7

#### 16 ♜d2 ♜bd7 (121)



The game is approximately level, Popov-Markland, Nice Ol 1974.

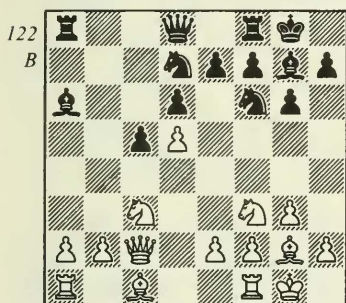
A2

10 ... 0-0

11 ♖c2 (122)

Or 11 ♖e1, after which 11 ... ♖c7 is possible (11 ... ♖b6 was looked at in A13), and then 12 ♕d2 ♖b6 13 ♕f4 ♖fb8 14 b3 ♖g4 15 ♕d2 ♖c8 16 h3 ♖e5 17 ♖xe5 ♕xe5 18 ♖b1 ± Spassky-Szabo, Göteborg 1971.

Alternatively, 11 ... ♖a5 12 ♕d2 ♖fb8 13 ♖c1 ♖b6 14 b3 ♕b7 15 e4 ♖g4 16 h3 ♖ge5 17 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 18 ♖c2 ♕a6 19 ♖a4 ♖b7 with a complicated game, Nikolić-Lakić, Banja Luka 1981.



Black has two main continuations:

A21 11 ... ♖a5

A22 11 ... ♖b6

Other possibilities:

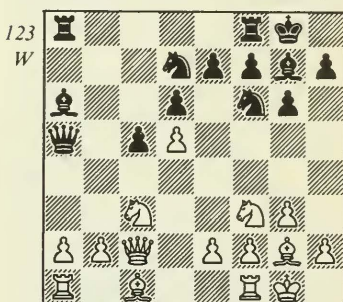
a) 11 ... ♖a7!? 12 ♖d1 ♖a8 13 e4 ♖b8 14 ♖b1 ♖g4 15 h3 (15 b3 ♖ge5 16 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 17 ♕e3

♖ab7 18 h3 ♖b4 = Buturin-Tukmakov, Odessa 1981) 15 ... ♖ge5 16 ♖e1 c4 17 ♕e3 ♖ab7 18 f4 ♖d3 19 ♖xd3 cd 20 ♖d2 ♖b4 with sharp play in Zatulovskaya-Alekhina, Sochi 1982.

b) 11 ... ♖c7 12 ♖d1 ♖fb8 13 ♖b1 (13 h3 ♖b6 14 ♖d2 ♖fd7 15 ♖b1 ♖c8 16 b3 ♖a5 17 ♕b2 c4 18 ♕a1 ± Korchnoi-Gurgenidze, USSR Ch 1957) 13 ... ♖g4 (13 ... ♖b4 14 ♕d2 ♖c8 15 ♕e1 ♖b7 16 a3, Bukić-Bellon, Pula 1975) 14 ♕d2 ♖c8 15 b3, Averbakh-Popov, Polanica Zdroj 1975. White successfully resolves the problems of his queen-side development and obtains the better chances.

A21

11 ... ♖a5 (123)



12 ♖b1

Vaganian-Rashkovsky, Moscow 1981, went 12 h3 ♖fb8 13 ♕d2 ♖e8 14 ♖fe1 ♖c7 15 b3 ♖a3 16 ♖h2! c4 17 ♖eb1! ♖c5 18 b4! ♖xb4 19 ♖e4! ♖xb1 20 ♖xb1 ♖a7 21 ♕e3 with advantage to White.

12 ... ♖fb8

The move 12 ... ♗g4!? deserves attention, preventing 13 b3. Black obtained an active game on the queenside after 13 ♖g5 ♖fe8 14 ♗d2 ♗de5 15 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 16 ♖h6 ♗c4 17 ♗c1 ♖h8! in Babev-Panov, Bulgaria 1974.

13 ♖d2

On 13 ♖d1 Black gets a definite initiative for his pawn with 13 ... ♗e8 14 ♖d2 ♖a7 15 ♖h3 ♗d8 16 b3 ♗c7 17 a4 ♖ab7 18 e4 ♗e5, Forintos-Anikayev, 1974.

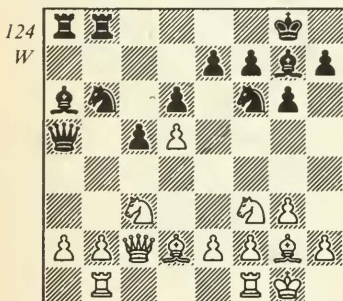
13 ♖g5?! ♗b6 14 ♖d1 h6 15 ♖d2 ♗c4 with a comfortable game.

13 ... ♗b6!? (124)

Other replies:

a) 13 ... ♗c7 14 ♖fc1!? ♖c4 15 b3 ♖xd5 16 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 17 ♗e1 e6 18 a4 ♗a7 19 ♗d3, Ivkov-Miles, Novi Sad 1975.

b) 13 ... ♗g4 14 h3 ♗ge5 15 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 16 b3 ♗a3! 17 ♖c1 ♗a5 18 ♖d2 ♗a3 19 ♗c1 ♖c8 with a difficult, approximately equal game, Ivkov-Lakić, Yugoslav Ch 1976.



The threat of 14 ... ♗c4 compels White to defend the c4 square.

14 b3 ♗a3!

15 ♖c1 ♗a5

16 ♖d1 ♗e8

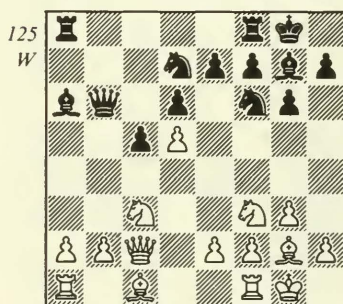
17 ♖b2 ♗c7

18 e4

White's chances are somewhat better, but Black's initiative on the queenside fully compensates for the pawn, Zaltsman-Benko, Lone Pine 1981.

A22

11 ... ♗b6 (125)



12 ♖b1 ♖fb8

13 ♖d1

In the game Korchnoi-Quinteros, Portorož-Ljubljana IZ 1973, White comfortably succeeded in deploying his forces with 13 b3 ♗e8?! 14 ♗d2 ♗a5 15 ♖b2 c4 16 ♖fc1 ♗e5 17 ♖a1, although stronger was 13 ... ♗g4!? 14 ♖b2 c4 15 ♖a1 ♗a5!? with sharp counterplay for Black.

On 13 h3 not bad is 13 ... ♗e8 14 ♖e1 (defending against the



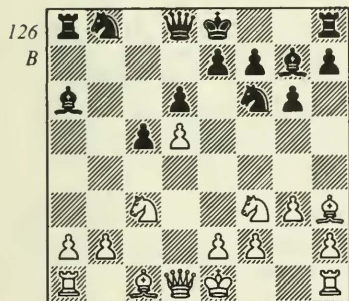
threat of 14 ... ♖xc3 and 15 ... ♖xe2; if 14 ♖d1 ♗c7 15 ♗d2 ♗b5 16 ♗c4 ♣a7 17 ♗xb5 ♖xb5 18 ♗a3 ♖a6 19 b3 ♣b7 with a complicated game in Csom-Gligorić, Portorož-Ljubljana IZ 1973; on 14 ♖g5 correct is 14 ... ♗c7!?) 14 ... ♖c4 (the other possibility is 14 ... ♗c7, intending 15 ... ♗b5) 15 b3 ♖xc3 16 ♣xc3 ♖xd5 17 ♖b2 f6 18 ♗g5!? with a sharp game in Vladimirov-Tseitlin, Leningrad 1974.

13 ... ♗g4!?  
14 h3 ♗e5  
15 ♗xe5 ♗xe5  
16 b3

White's chances are preferable. The game Gorelov-Gleck, Moscow 1984, continued 16 ... ♣a5 17 ♖d2 c4 18 ♖e1 cb 19 ab ♣b6 20 ♖h2 ♖c8 21 ♖dc1 ±.

B

9 ♖h3 (126)



The bishop is more active on h3 than g2, but e4 and d5 are more

vulnerable.

9 ... ♗bd7  
10 0-0

As in the 9 ♖g2 variation, Black can choose between 10 ... 0-0 and 10 ... ♗b6, hindering the arrangement of White's pieces by 11 ♣c2 and 12 ♖d1.

B1 10 ... 0-0

B2 10 ... ♗b6

B1

10 ... 0-0  
11 ♣c2

After 11 ♖e1 possible is 11 ... ♣c7 (11 ... ♗b6 will be looked at in B2) as in Belyavsky-Vaganian, USSR Ch 1977, which continued 12 ♖f4 ♖fb8 13 ♣d2 ♖b4 (sharper is 13 ... ♗b6!?) 14 ♖ac1 h5?! 15 ♖h6!? ♖xh6 16 ♣xh6 ♖xb2 17 ♖e6! with initiative to White.

11 ... ♣c7

Other moves:

a) 11 ... ♣a5 12 ♖d1 ♖fb8 13 ♖b1 ♗b6 14 b3 ♖b7 15 e4 ♖c8 16 ♖xc8 ♗xc8 17 ♖b2 ± Toth-Formanek, Reggio Emilia 1975-6.

b) 11 ... ♗b6 12 ♖d1 ♖c8 13 ♖g2 ♗g4 14 ♖b1 ♗c4 15 ♗e4 ♗ge5 16 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 17 ♗c3 ♣a5 with a complex game, Lapenis-Mochalov, Riga 1975.

c) 11 ... ♖c4 12 ♖d1 ♖a7 13 e4 ♣a8 14 a3 ♖b8 15 ♗d2 ♖a6 16 ♖f1 ♖ab7 17 ♖a2 ♖xf1 18 ♖xf1 ♗e8 19 b3 ♣a6 with enough compensation for the pawn, Furman-

Geller, Riga 1975.

d) 11 ... h5. A dubious move, played with the intention of continuing 12 ... ♖g4. In Timman-Webb, London 1975, White obtained a very strong attack on the black king after 12 ♖g5 ♖g4 13 f3 ♙d4 14 ♖g2 ♖e3 15 ♙xe3 ♙xe3 16 ♖e6! fe 17 ♖xg6.

12 ♙d1 ♖fb8

13 ♙b1

White prepares 14 b3, strengthening his queenside.

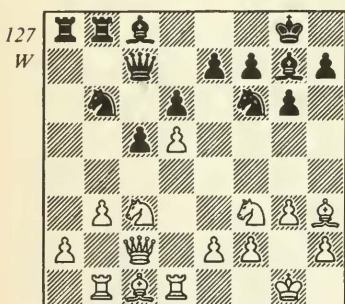
13 ... ♖b6

By attacking d5 Black prepares the ... ♙c8 manoeuvre, forcing a favourable exchange of bishops. Other moves have been tried:

a) 13 ... ♖e8 14 ♙d2 ♖b4 15 a3 ♖b7 16 b3 ♖d8 17 ♙e1 ♖c7 18 a4 ± Panno-Bellon, Madrid 1973.

b) 13 ... ♖b4 14 b3 ♖ab8 15 ♙a3 ♖4b7 16 ♙b2 ♖a5 17 ♙a1 ♖b4 18 ♖a4 ♖b5 19 ♖c3 ♖b7 20 e4 ± Vaganian-Vasyukov, Vilnius 1975.

14 b3 ♙c8! (127)



15 ♙xc8 ♖xc8

Less successful was 15 ... ♖xc8 in Podgayets-Buchman, Rostov-on-Don 1970, which continued 16 e4 ♖d7 17 ♙b2 ♖b7 18 ♙a1 ♖e5 19 ♖xe5 ♙xe5 20 ♖a4, when the position stabilised itself in White's favour.

16 ♖g2 ♖a6

17 ♙b2 ♖e8

The ending after 17 ... c4 18 b4! ♖a4 19 ♖xa4 ♖xa4 20 ♖xa4 ♖xa4 21 a3 ♖e4 22 ♙xg7 ♖xg7 23 ♖bc1 was favourable for White in Furman-Barle, Ljubljana 1975.

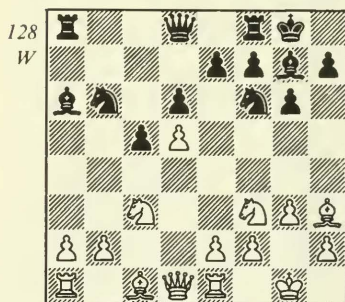
18 e4 ♖c7

Black's pressure on the queenside balances the pawn minus.

B2

10 ... ♖b6

11 ♖e1 0-0 (128)



As in positions with the bishop on g2, White prepares the advance of his central pawns.

12 e4

The other possibility is 12 ♙f4 ♖c4 13 ♖c1 ♖a5 and now the



bishop's absence from g2 starts to tell: 14 ♖b1 (not 14 ♜d2 because of 14 ... ♜xb2 15 ♖xb2 ♜xd5) 14 ... ♖ab8 (sharper is 14 ... ♖fb8 15 ♜d2 ♜e8) 15 ♜d2!? and White gets the better game after both

a) 15 ... ♜xb2 16 ♜b3 ♖a3 17 ♖xb2 ♖xb2 18 ♖xb2 c4 19 ♜d2 cb 20 ♖xb3 ±, and

b) 15 ... ♜e5 16 ♜xe5 de 17 ♖c2 ♖fd8 18 ♜g2 ♜h6 19 ♖ed1 ± Kraidman-Bellon, Haifa Ol 1976.

12 ... ♜fd7

13 ♖c2 ♜c4

14 ♜xd7

Other tries here have been:

a) 14 ♜f1 ♖a5 15 ♜xc4 ♜xc4 16 ♜d2 ♖a6, Gerusel-Miles, Bad Lauterberg 1977.

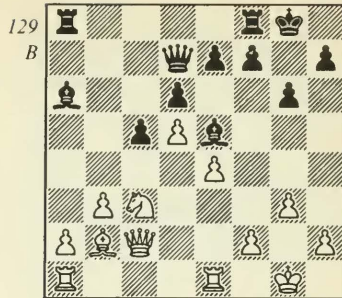
b) 14 ♜f4 ♜de5 15 ♜xe5 ♜xe5 16 ♜xe5 ♜xe5 17 ♜f1 ♖a5 18 ♜xa6 ♖xa6, Williams-Day, Haifa Ol 1976.

14 ... ♖xd7

15 b3 ♜ce5

16 ♜xe5 ♜xe5

17 ♜b2 (129)



White has strengthened his queenside and intends 18 ♜d1 exchanging dark-squared bishops. Belyavsky-Palatnik, Kiev 1978, went 17 ... ♖fc8 18 ♜d1 ♜xb2 19 ♜xb2 ♖b7 20 ♖e3 ♜b5 21 ♜d1 ♜d7 22 ♖c3 ♖a3 23 ♜e3 ±.

17 ... f5

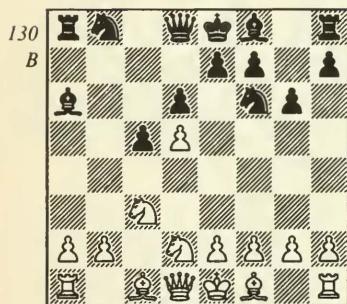
18 ♜d1 ♜xb2

19 ♜xb2 f4!

Black gets reasonable chances on the kingside which compensate for the pawn, Kakageldiev-Alburt, Ashkhabad 1978.

# 13 Classical: 8 ♘d2

1 d4 ♘f6  
 2 c4 c5  
 3 d5 b5  
 4 cb a6  
 5 ba ♙xa6  
 6 ♘c3 d6  
 7 ♘f3 g6  
 8 ♘d2 (130)



The idea of this move is to play 9 e4 and after 9 ... ♙xf1 to take back with the knight in order to castle kingside. Black has a choice of:

A 8 ... ♙a5!?

B 8 ... ♙g7

A

8 ... ♙a5

And now:

A1 9 g3

A2 9 e4

A1

9 g3 ♙g7

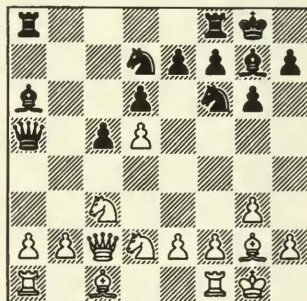
10 ♙g2 0-0

11 0-0 ♘bd7

12 ♙c2 (131)

131

B



A position from Chapter 12 has arisen with the inclusion of White's move ♘d2.

12 ... ♙f8

12 ... ♖e8 deserves attention, for example 13 ♖b3 ♖c7 and now:

a) 14 ♙g5 ♖e5 15 ♖ad1 ♖f6 16 ♖fe1 ♖fb8 17 ♙cl ♖fd7 18 h3 ♖c4, Segal-Benko, Sao Paulo 1973.

b) 14 ♖b1 ♖ef6 15 ♖d2 ♖a5 16 b3 ♖fb8 17 a3 ♖e8 18 ♙b2, Petrosian-Szmetan, Nice Ol 1974, and now 18 ... ♖b7 and 19 ... ♖ab8 gives Black a promising game.

13 ♖d1

After 13 ♖e1 the game Gavrikov-Agzamov, USSR 1975, went 13 ... c4!? 14 ♖f3 ♙b7 15 ♙d2 ♖xd5 16 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 17 ♙c3 ♖e5 with a sharp game.

13 ... ♖e8

In the game Gligorić-Rajković, Vršac 1977, Black mistakenly played 13 ... ♖e5 and White got the better game after 14 h3 ♖fd7 15 ♙h2 ♖a7 16 f4 ♖c4 17 ♖xc4 ♙xc4 18 ♙d2 ♖a6 19 ♖e1 ♖b6 20 b3.

14 ♖b1 ♖c7

Black has sufficient counterplay since White finds it difficult to develop his queenside.

A2

9 e4 ♙xf1

10 ♙xf1

Not 10 ♖xf1 in view of 10 ... ♖xe4.

10 ... ♙g7

11 g3

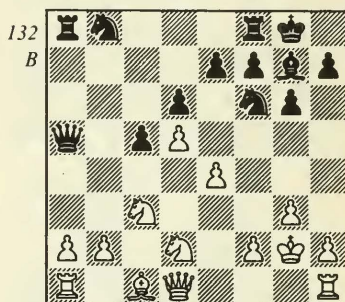
On 11 ♖e2 ♖bd7 12 ♖c4 comes

12 ... ♖a6 with pressure along the f1-a6 diagonal.

10 ... 0-0

12 ♙g2 (132)

Donner-Hebden, Marbella Z 1982, went 12 ♖c4 ♖a6 13 ♖e2 ♖bd7 14 ♙g5 ♖fb8!? 15 ♖cl h6 16 ♙d2 ♖b6 17 ♖xb6 ♖xb6 18 ♖xa6 ♖axa6 19 b3 ♖d7 20 ♖a4 ♖b7 and Black has enough initiative on the queenside to merit equality.



A position from Chapter 11 has arisen with the inclusion of the move ♖d2, which is useful for White.

12 ... ♖bd7

13 ♖c4

A consistent continuation. On 13 ♖c2 good is 13 ... ♖a6! 14 a4 ♖fb8 15 ♖a3 ♖e8 (premature is 15 ... ♖b4 in view of 16 ♖b5! ♖e8 17 b3 and Black's rook finds itself in trouble, Kraidman-Browne, Netanya 1971) 16 ♖e1 ♖c7 and then 17 ... ♖b4 with an initiative.

13 ... ♖a6

14 ♖e2 ♖fb8

Equally possible is 14 ... ♖b6 15 ♖xb6 ♖xb6 16 ♖c2 ♖fb8 17 ♖b1 ♖g4 with an attacking game for Black in Messing-Bukić, Sarajevo 1974.

### 15 ♖b1

White must prepare 16 b3 in view of the threat of 15 ... ♖b4, which is possible after 15 ♖e1, e.g. Dommes-Zilberman, USSR 1975, which continued 15 ♖e1 ♖b4! 16 ♖a3 ♖e5 17 ♖c2 ♖d3!, when White was in a difficult position.

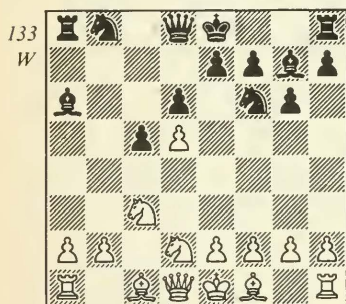
15 ♖d2 ♖b6 16 b3 ♖fd7 17 ♖xb6 ♖xb6 18 ♖xa6 ♖xa6 19 a4 c4! with equality in Marszalek-Bach, Poland 1971.

15	...	♖b6
16	♖xb6	♖xe2
17	♖xe2	♖xb6
18	♖c3	♖d7

Boleslavsky-Kapengut, USSR 1975, continued 19 ♖g5 h6 20 ♖d2 and Black had sufficient pressure for equality.

## B

8 ... ♖g7 (133)



9 e4 ♖xf1

After 9 ... 0-0 10 ♖xa6 ♖xa6 11 0-0 ♖d7 12 ♖c4 (on 12 ♖e2 follows 12 ... ♖b6! as in Ghitescu-Benko, Siegen Ol 1970, which went 13 ♖f3 ♖c7 14 ♖d1 ♖a4! 15 ♖xa4 ♖xa4 with initiative to Black) and White has the better chances since Black cannot drive away the knight on c4:

a) 12 ... ♖b6 13 ♖a5!  
b) 12 ... ♖e5 13 ♖e3 followed by 14 f4.  
c) Possible is 12 ... ♖c7 13 ♖g5!? ♖e5 14 ♖e3 ♖e8 15 ♖e2 ♖c8 16 f4 ♖d7 17 ♖h1 ± Foisor-Kertesz, Iasi 1977.

10 ♖xf1 ♖a5!?

By creating the threat of 11 ... ♖e4 Black prevents the normal 11 ♖e3.

11 ♖d2

Aiming to develop the knight on e3 does not work: 11 ♖d2 0-0 12 ♖e3 ♖bd7 (12 ... ♖a6 is possible) 13 0-0 ♖a6 14 ♖c2 c4! 15 ♖e2 ♖e5 and Black firmly seizes the initiative, Spassov-Tringov, Varna 1973.

11 ... ♖fd7

O'Kelly-Damjanović, Montilla 1972, went 11 ... 0-0 12 0-0 ♖bd7 13 ♖c4 ♖a6 14 ♖e2 ♖fb8 and Black had obtained sufficient counterplay.

12 ♖c2

The knight on c3 must be defended. 12 0-0 0-0 13 ♖e2 ♖xc3!

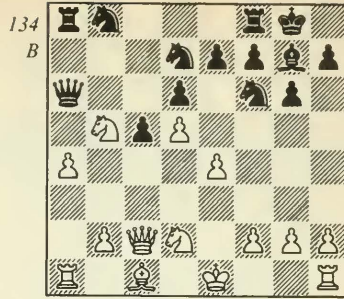
14 ♘b3 (14 bc ♖xc3) 14 ... ♖a6  
15 ♖xa6 ♘xa6 16 bc ♘c7+ Romm-  
Damjanović, Netanya 1973.

12 ... ♖a6

13 a4 0-0

14 ♘b5 (134)

Kraidman-Damjanović, Netanya  
1973, continued 14 ... ♖b7 15 ♘c4  
♘a6 16 0-0 ♘b4 with a complicated  
game for both sides.





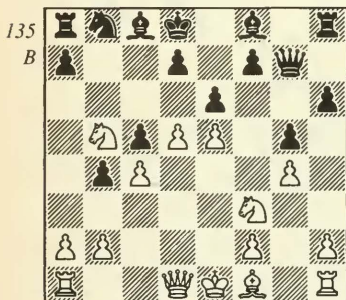
# Illustrative Games

## Malaniuk-Palatnik Tallinn 1985

- |    |      |       |
|----|------|-------|
| 1  | d4   | ♘f6   |
| 2  | c4   | c5    |
| 3  | d5   | b5    |
| 4  | ♘f3  | e6    |
| 5  | ♙g5  | h6    |
| 6  | ♙xf6 | ♖xf6  |
| 7  | ♘c3  | b4    |
| 8  | ♘b5  | ♘d8?! |
| 9  | e4   | g5    |
| 10 | e5!  | ♖g7   |

10 ... ♖f4 is risky because of 11 h3, and the black queen is in danger.

- 11 g4! (135)



- |    |       |     |
|----|-------|-----|
| 11 | ...   | ♙b7 |
| 12 | ♖a4   | a5  |
| 13 | 0-0-0 | f6? |

Black had to play either 13 ... ♖a6 or 13 ... ♘c8.

- |    |     |      |
|----|-----|------|
| 14 | ♘d6 | ♙xd6 |
| 15 | ed  |      |

There is no satisfactory defence against 16 ♖b5.

- |    |     |     |
|----|-----|-----|
| 15 | ... | ♘c8 |
|----|-----|-----|

Best.

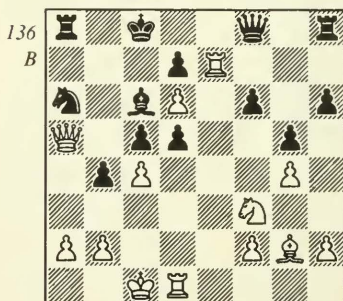
- |    |     |     |
|----|-----|-----|
| 16 | ♖b5 | ♘a6 |
| 17 | ♙g2 | ed  |

Weaker is 17 ... e5 18 ♘d2, and after ♘e4 Black's position is defenceless.

- |    |      |     |
|----|------|-----|
| 18 | ♖he1 | ♖f8 |
|----|------|-----|

Black tries to bring his queen into the game. If 18 ... ♙c6 then 19 ♖b6 d4 20 ♘xd4! ♙xg2 21 ♘f5 ±.

- |    |            |     |
|----|------------|-----|
| 19 | ♖e7        | ♙c6 |
| 20 | ♖xa5 (136) |     |



20 ... ♖d8

Black cannot play 20 ... d4 because of 21 ♘xd4, e.g. 21 ... ♙xg2 22 ♘e6! ♖g8 23 ♖xd7! ♘xd7 24 ♘xc5+ with a winning attack.

21 ♖xd8+ ♘xd8

22 cd

The awkward placing of Black's pieces gives White an easily won endgame.

22 ... ♙b5

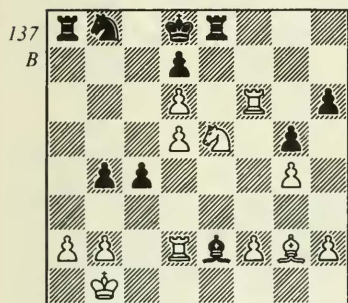
23 ♖f7 ♘b8

24 ♘b1 ♙e2

25 ♖d2 ♖e8

26 ♖xf6 c4

27 ♘e5 (137)



Black's position is hopeless. He continued only because of time shortage.

27 ... ♖xe5

28 ♖f8+ ♖e8

29 ♖xe8+ ♘xe8

30 ♖xe2+ ♘d8

31 ♖e4 c3

32 ♖xb4 cb

33 f4 ♘c8

34 fg hg

35 ♖e4 ♖a6

36 ♖e8+ ♘b7

37 ♖e5 ♖b6

38 ♙f1 ♖b4

39 ♖xg5 ♖f4

40 ♙b5 ♖f2

41 h4 ♘b6

42 a4 ♖h2

43 ♖g8

1-0

Lukacs-Plachetka

Belgrade 1984

1 d4 ♘f6

2 c4 c5

3 d5 b5

4 cb a6

5 e3 e6

6 ♘c3 ed

7 ♘ge2

White is in no hurry to recapture the pawn.

7 ... ♙b7

7 ... ab 8 ♘f4! ♙b7 would transpose to the text.

8 ♘f4 ab

8 ... ♖a5 would be a mistake: 9 ♙d2! and if 9 ... ♖c7 then 10 ♖f3! increasing the pressure.

9 ♙xb5 ♙d6!?

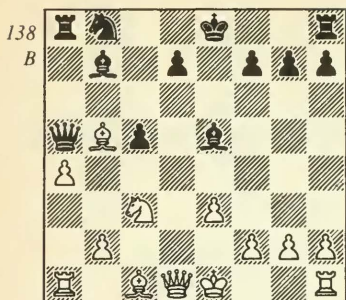
The best chance. Black forces the issue.

10 ♘fxd5 ♘xd5

11 ♘xd5 ♖a5+

12 ♘c3 ♙e5

13 a4 (138)



13 ... ♖xg2?

Black should have played 13 ... ♖xc3+ 14 bc ♖xc3+ 15 ♖d2 ♖e5 16 0-0 0-0 17 ♖c1, with some advantage to White.

14 ♖g1 ♖c6

15 ♖d2 ♖xb5

15 ... 0-0 is dangerous. After 16 ♖h5 White has strong threats.

16 ♖xb5 ♖b6

17 ♖h5

A strong move, highlighting White's advantage. 17 ... d6 would be answered by 18 f4!, and 17 ... ♖f6 by 18 ♖d5!.

17 ... ♖c6

18 f4 g6

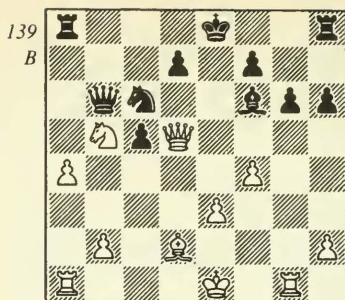
The only move. The bishop cannot retreat owing to the threats of 19 ♖d6+ and 19 ♖xg7.

19 ♖g5! h6

20 ♖g2! ♖f6

21 ♖d5! (139)

Having prevented Black from castling (21 ... 0-0? 22 ♖xg6+) White obtains a decisive attack.



21 ... ♖h4+

22 ♖e2 ♖e7

23 ♖c3 ♖f8

24 ♖gd1 0-0-0

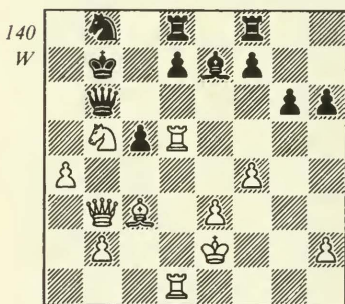
Although material is equal, Black is helpless due to the chronic weakness of his light squares.

25 ♖c4! ♖b7

26 ♖d5 ♖b8

27 ♖ad1 ♖e6

28 ♖b3 ♖b6 (140)



29 ♖a5!

The bishop cannot be taken (29 ... ♖xa5 30 ♖d6+).

1-0

Hort-Ermenkov  
Tunis IZ 1985

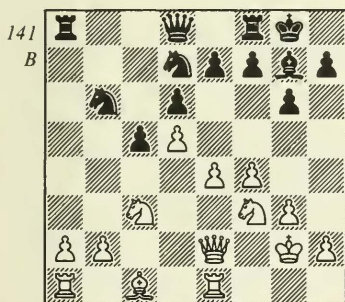
- |    |      |       |
|----|------|-------|
| 1  | d4   | ♘f6   |
| 2  | c4   | c5    |
| 3  | d5   | b5    |
| 4  | cb   | a6    |
| 5  | ba   | g6    |
| 6  | ♘c3  | ♙xa6  |
| 7  | ♘f3  | d6    |
| 8  | e4   | ♙xf1  |
| 9  | ♙xf1 | ♙g7   |
| 10 | g3   | 0-0   |
| 11 | ♙g2  | ♘bd7  |
| 12 | ♙e1  | ♘g4!? |

The most logical continuation.

- 13 ♙e2 ♘ge5

13 ... ♙b6 can be met by 14 ♘b5 ♙fb8 15 a4. If 13 ... ♙a5 14 ♘d2!?

- 14 ♘d2 ♘b6  
15 f4 ♘ed7  
16 ♘f3 (141)



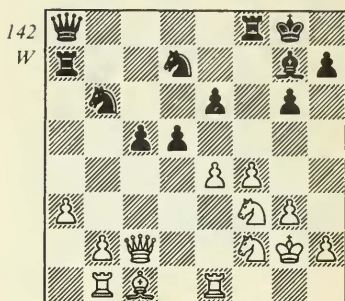
- 16 ... ♘a4!  
17 ♘d1

17 ♘a4 ♙xa4 18 e5 is poor on account of 18 ... ♘b6 followed by ... ♙a8 with initiative.

- 17 ... ♙a7!?  
18 ♙b1 ♙a8  
19 ♙c2

White prepares 20 b3 ♘ab6 21 a4, but Black prevents this with a timely undermining of the centre.

- 19 ... ♘ab6!  
20 a3 e6!  
21 de fe  
22 ♘f2 d5 (142)



- 23 e5

Or 23 ed ed 24 ♘g5 ♘c4 25 ♘e6 ♙c8 and White's king is in danger.

- 23 ... ♘c4  
24 ♙e2 ♙b8  
25 ♘d3 ♙ab7

White's light-square weaknesses give Black the advantage.

- 26 b4!?

Otherwise after 26 ... ♙b3 White has difficulties. If now 26 ... ♘xa3 27 ♙xa3 ♙xa3 28 ♘xc5 ♘xc5 29 ♙xc5 ♙xb4 30 ♘d4 and White stands well.

- 26 ... ♙f8  
27 ♙a2 ♙a7  
28 ♙c2 ♙c8

29 ♖d1 d4

The opening of the a8-h1 diagonal is decisive.

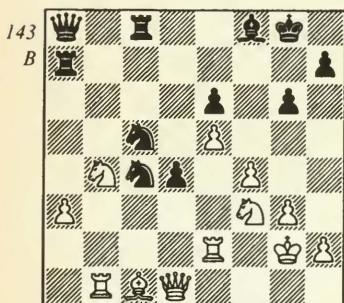
30 ♜b3?!

Better 30 bc.

30 ... cb

31 ♘xb4 ♘c5

32 ♜b1 (143)



32 ... d3! ♚

33 ♜a2 ♜d8

34 ♘h3 ♘e4

35 ♖b3 d2

36 ♙xd2 ♘cxd2

37 ♖xe6+ ♘h8

38 ♜xd2

38 ♘xd2 is impossible owing to  
38 ... ♘f2+ 39 ♘h4 ♙e7+.

38 ... ♘xd2

39 ♘xd2 ♙xb4

40 ♘e4 ♙e7

41 ♘d6 ♙xd6

42 ♖f6+ ♘g8

43 ed ♖c8

44 ♘h4 ♜a5

45 g4 ♜f8

46 ♖d4 ♖c5

0-1



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## 5 ♘c3 ab 6 e4 b4 7 ♘b5 d6:

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Grandmaster Eduard Gufeld is the trainer of the USSR Women's Olympiad team and a noted theoretician whose works include *The Sicilian Defence*, *Queen's Gambit Accepted* and *Exploiting Small Advantages*.

142 diagrams

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